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24 PAGES 150 FILS

Trial of four begins

Defendants plead innocent; women gathering dispersed peacefully

KUWAIT, May 12, (Kuna): A State Security trying four defendants accused of provocation to overthrow the ruling system, possession of explosives, fire-arms, forgery and smuggling today began an open procedural session.

Justice Mohamed Abdellah Al Banai presided over the tribunal which comprises judges Abdellah Aziz Haiba and Khaled Ahmed Al Waqyan.

Representative of state prosecutor Obaid Al Ajami and the tribunal's secretary Mohamed Nazar were also present at the opening session.



The defendants being taken to the state security court on the first day of their trial.

Bhutto to visit Islamic nations

ISLAMABAD, May 12, (Agencies): Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will visit 12 Islamic nations during the next month to discuss ways of averting war between Pakistan and India over the disputed region of Kashmir, the government announced today.

"Since we have seen repeated in the last four and a half months that the processes for peace in Kashmir prescribed by the United Nations are not being put into operation, naturally this is the time to consult one's friends," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told newsmen.

Relations between India and Pakistan have nosedived since mid-January, when an uprising broke out against Indian rule in Jammu and Kashmir state. Islamabad morally supports the movement but has denied Indian charges it is training and arming the militants.

The spokesman said "mindful of... above all the necessity to discuss the Kashmiri question with leaders of the Islamic states," Benazir would visit at least 12 Muslim countries.

He said the 36-year-old prime minister would leave on Tuesday on a "momentous" nine-day trip to Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, North Yemen, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. The prime minister also hopes to visit Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait and Bahrain in the first week of June, the spokesman said.

He said discussions are also underway for Benazir to travel to some other Islamic nations.

"There is a time-honoured tradition in the Islamic world to address problems and issues of common concern in mutual and collective consultations," the spokesman said.

"The Islamic world is beset with a host of problems at the moment," he said. "The harrowing sufferings of the people of Kashmir, whose only aim is to ask for the right of self-determination pledged to them by the United Nations, India and Pakistan, is a case in point. For upholding this right Pakistan is being threatened with war."

Cyclone kills 322 in India

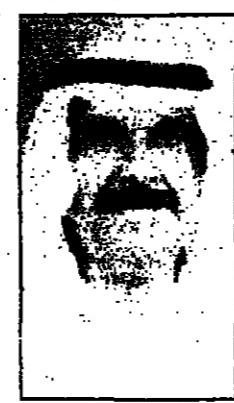
HYDERABAD, May 12, (AP): A powerful cyclone that ravaged India's southern districts for three days has left 322 people and 90,000 farm animals dead and flooded thousands of villages, officials said today.

They said, Air Force and Navy helicopters were rushing food and water to tens of thousands of misplaced people in villages in Andhra Pradesh state.

Earlier Report Page 2

'Polls constitutional' 10 out on bail

Candidates Speak



Khalil Jawhar Hayat, running for Qadisiya is hoping that the Interim National Council will succeed in creating better basis for democratic practices than those of the dissolved National Assembly. "Deputies should not be allowed to act according to their own whims and wishes because they have immunity," he said.

The 44-year-old merchant expects a steady increase in the number of voters after assertions from HH the Amir and the interior minister that the council is not a substitute for the National Assembly.

"My campaign will concentrate on convincing people to take part in the upcoming elections. I believe that voting is a required national duty."

(Continued on Page 10)

Moscow considering PLO request

Emigrants return

AMMAN, May 12, (Reuters): A Soviet envoy said today Moscow was considering a request by the PLO that Jewish emigrante be allowed to return if they do not like their new home in Israel.

Soviet Foreign Ministry official Egor Andropov, in Jordan on a regional tour, said in an interview with the state-run news agency Petra.

"We are considering a demand by the Palestine Liberation Organisation to allow the Soviet Jewish emigrant keep his passport so that he can come back at any time."

The Soviet Supreme Council is considering the possibility of granting all Soviet emigrants, including those who go to Israel, the right to return to their homeland," he said.

The PLO fears up to one million Soviet Jews will go to Israel over the next six years, forcing an exodus of Palestinians across the River Jordan. Israel says 33,000 Soviet Jews arrived in the first four months of the year.

Andropov said settling the Soviet Jews in Israeli-occupied territory was "a flagrant violation of Palestinian human rights and a violation of international law."

At the request of the PLO, an Arab summit will convene in Baghdad later this month to discuss the Jewish migration.



March dispersed

A East German policeman wields his baton as police disperse a demonstration against the re-unification of the two Germanys in downtown Frankfurt yesterday. Around 20,000 people took part in the demonstration. (Reuters wirephoto)

Israel disappointed over US stand, hopes for a veto

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 12, (AP): Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said today that US-cooperation with Arabs in drafting an anti-UN resolution was "a source of disappointment" for the Jewish state.

Arens expressed hope that the United States, in the end, would not approve the draft of the resolution opposing the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories, or would veto it during the planned UN Security Council vote.

Israel, he said, is "concerned about some of the preparations for presenting a resolution at the UN Security Council."

For several weeks, the 15-member council has been negotiating the draft resolution, which also endorses the right of Palestinian exiles to return to their homeland and calls Israel's settlements in the occupied territories illegal.

The United States views settlement in the disputed areas as an obstacle to Middle East

peacemaking, but reportedly seeks to water down the resolution, rejects the term "illegal" and does not see the settlements a threat to regional peace.

"We were surprised and disappointed to see that the American delegate at the UN Security Council had been working together with none other than the delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen, the country which I believe until recently was on the State Department's list of countries engaged in terrorism," Arens said.



Baby saint

An eight-year-old boy in Bangladesh, Shah Ali Shah, has a fully developed beard and bushy hair all over his body. The boy's parents have declared him a "baby saint" and collect money from the thousands of visitors who seek his blessings. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fierce fighting in east Beirut

10 killed, 41 injured

BEIRUT, May 12, (AP): Rival Christian forces fought tank and artillery battles in east Beirut and the surrounding Christian hinterland yesterday, killing 10 people and wounding 41, police said.

Several artillery rounds strayed overall from the embattled enclave and crashed in west Beirut and the Shiite Muslim countryside. Two people were killed and 10, including two children, were wounded in the Muslim region.

Today's casualties raised the overall toll to 940 killed and 2,606 wounded in the battle for mastery of the 310 square mile (800 square km) Christian enclave, which erupted Jan 30.

Four ceasefires by a three-man mediation committee went unheeded as the combatants blasted residential areas and mountain resorts.

Fires blazed out of control in apartment buildings in east Beirut's neighbourhoods of Ashrafieh and Baabda, in villages in the highlands of Kesrouan and pinewoods of the Metn mountains, northeast of the capital.

Radio stations broadcast urgent appeals for civil defence workers to put out the fires and evacuate the wounded to hospitals. But the intensity of the shelling hampered the rescue efforts.

The hostilities kept all roads blocked for a fifth straight day between the Aoun-controlled Metn province and the rest of the enclave, which was not as large as forecast.

The next election must be held by mid-1992.

Thatcher signalled her belief that the tide of public opinion, which had seen the Conservatives trailing the Labour Party by more than 20 points, was turning.

In the latest opinion polls, Labour's lead has been cut to between 11 and 15 per cent. Although the Conservatives lost this month's local elections, they will also be meeting some ministry officials for whatever queries they have.

Wife of Hoss dies

BEIRUT, May 12, (AP): Leila Pharon, the wife of Prime Minister Salim Hoss, died of cancer at the American University Hospital today. She was 57.

The premier's office said Mrs Hoss had been admitted to hospital on Thursday. A source at the office said she had cancer, but would not provide other details.

Workers combed the wreckage of a Philippines Airlines jet determined today that a crude bomb may have caused the explosion and fire that killed eight of 119 people aboard the aircraft as it prepared for takeoff.

Senior airline officials said the blast took place under a seat in the midsection of the Boeing 737 jet while a tow truck was pulling it to a runway at the Manila airport in preparation for takeoff yesterday. The plane was a domestic flight bound for the central city of Iloilo.

Galileo Bangud, aviation safety division chief, said the initial investigation of the aircraft wreckage showed the explosion was caused by a "crude incendiary device." No shrapnel were reported found.

"The explosion was weak, it did not even shatter the windows. If it were strong, the roof would have been blown off. The damage to the upper section was caused by the fire," Bangud said.

Officials said the plane, acquired only in October, was

delayed for three minutes when its main door jammed. The device apparently was timed to explode shortly after takeoff and the brief delay may have averted a major disaster, they said.

"Thank God the plane was delayed. It could have been worse," said PAL President Dunc Santos as he made the rounds at a hospital talking with some of the 86 passengers injured in the incident.

We're investigating what caused the explosion. It was not caused by malfunction. The engines (had) not even started yet," Santos said.

Horacio Paredes, President Corazon Aquino's deputy press secretary, said in a statement that since cause of the blast was not yet known "it is only prudent that comment and speculation on the matter be severely restrained."

Hospital authorities said 86 were treated for burns, bruises and fractures. The injured included Aurelio Perique, the head of the Philippine chamber of commerce, and a congressman.

Saddam offers to meet Iran President

NICOSIA, May 12, (Reuters): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has proposed face-to-face meeting with Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to break the deadlock which followed the Gulf war, a Tehran newspaper disclosed today.

A senior Iraqi official told a Kuwait newspaper that a letter from Saddam sent on May 1 offered Iran an opportunity for a comprehensive settlement to the border conflict.

Another Kuwait newspaper has reported that Saddam proposed a new approach to ownership of the Shatt Al Arab, a border waterway which was one of the roots of the 1980-88 conflict in which hundreds of thousands died on both sides.

Iran's fundamentalist leaders have displayed open interest in the letter, received on May 1, although its contents have not been officially disclosed.

Iran's media reported a series of meetings to discuss it and Rafsanjani spoke on "some signs" of good intentions from Baghdad.

The Tehran Times, reported the invitation to a summit, saying Iraq would soon have a chance to show UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar whether it means what it says.

If Iraq is sincere in its peace gesture it should be assured of Iran's full co-operation," Tehran Times said. "The Islamic republic time and again has proven its seriousness to this end."

"Will Baghdad's foreign minister, this time too, repeat his past performances of totally fruitless visits and talks?" the paper asked. "It is hoped that, as may be expected from the positive contents of the Iraqi letter to Iran, this will not be the case this time."

Perez de Cuellar is due to meet Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz in Rome.

The newspaper today quoted Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Nizar Hamdou as urging Tehran "not to miss an opportunity for a comprehensive settlement to the border conflict."

Italian police said today they had seized some 90 tonnes of parts suspected to be for a giant Iraqi canon. A paramilitary Carabinieri spokesman said the seizures in Naples and two other Italian cities on Friday and Saturday were connected with the discovery in Britain, Turkey and Greece of other parts for the weapon.



Princess Beatrice

Princess Beatrice, 21-month-old daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York, takes walk at the Royal Windsor Horse Show yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

DAY BY DAY

IN national issues, there should be no hesitation, however, we should not at the same time put one foot here and the other there -- this is tantamount to political hypocrisy.

We are not watching a wrestling match awaiting a clap for the winner.

There are some sections who believe they are "hoodwinked" people when they say that for the sake of Kuwait we are with you sailing in the same ship, but when it is decision time, we find them procrastinating to see who is the winner -- as if they have become deaf.

Zahed Matar

INTERNATIONAL

Ten killed in Punjab Sikh attacks

NEW DELHI, May 12. (Reuters): Ten people were killed, including four shot dead when Sikhs attacked a Hindu village, in fighting in the north Indian state of Punjab, local news agencies reported today. The militants, fighting for a separate homeland called

Khalistan, raided the village of Jaslan in Jalandhar district, killing four people and wounding five at a religious ceremony. Security forces returned fire, killing two militants, the agencies said.

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Indian cyclone toll rises to 308

HYDERABAD, India, May 12. (Agencies): More than 300 people have been killed and crops worth five billion rupees (\$300 million) destroyed by a cyclone that ravaged Andhra Pradesh state in southern India, officials said today.

At least 308 people have been reported dead since the powerful cyclone, with winds of 240 kph (145 mph), slammed into the mouth of the Krishna river on Wednesday and flattened nearly everything in its path, state officials said.

Crop losses in rich farmlands producing rice, sugar cane and fruit have been estimated at about \$300 million, Agriculture Minister Channa Reddy said today.

Prime Minister V.P. Singh flew over the area, encompassing more than six million people in 3,000 villages, by helicopter today and afterwards called the damage "extensive and immense".

"Many villages are surrounded by water, roads all over inundated, telecommunications and power installations damaged... sea water entered several villages forcing officials to air drop drinking water," Singh said.

The Indian government made available 340 million rupees (\$20 million) for immediate aid.

The death toll was expected to rise as rescuers found more bodies in the rubble of collapsed houses, officials at the cyclone control centre in Hyderabad said today.

State Relief Commissioner Arjuna Rao said late yesterday that 2.6 million people, including 400,000 evacuees, were either temporarily homeless or in need of relief supplies. He said the state had set up 550 relief camps.

Tidal waves hit a 100 km (60 mile) stretch of the southeastern coast and penetrated 15 km (nine miles) inland, causing heavy flooding.

At least 10 helicopters began dropping food and water today to villages marooned by floods or cut off by fallen trees and power lines blocking roads.

Rao said helicopters had made three unsuccessful attempts to reach disaster areas yesterday but were turned back because of strong winds and heavy rain.

The carcasses of tens of thousands of animals killed in the storm pose a serious health hazard, he said.

The region's rice crop had been harvested but much of it was stacked in fields when the storm hit. Many food warehouses have been flattened by winds or swept away by floods, officials said.

The cyclone has weakened to a tropical depression and was hovering over central Andhra Pradesh today, the National Meteorological Office said.

ISLAMABAD, May 12. (Reuters): A bus packed with wedding party guests plunged into a 1,500-foot (500 metre) deep ravine near the northern Pakistani town of Abbottabad yesterday, killing 18 of them and injuring 49, the official APP news agency reported.

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Bus crash kills 18

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He also said the Philippines would soon enter the second phase of a five-year, \$10 billion aid plan initiated by Washington. Last year, \$3.5 billion in aid was pledged to Manila, which is saddled with a \$28 billion external debt.

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مكتبة من المعلم



NEWTON

INTERNATIONAL

Pistol-packing landlady battles drugs, foreclosures

ATLANTA, May 12, (AP): Sandra Hartman, a pistol-packing landlady, banged on the open apartment door with her .380-caliber automatic and peered in at the litter of cocaine bags and razors lying among broken toys.

"Maintenance. Anybody here?" she called, crunching broken glass underfoot as she made sure no one was hiding in the apartment.

"Look at this, they've been burning in here," she said, pointing to carpet burns an blackened aluminium cans, more evidence of cocaine use. "But I could fix this place up."

During a visit in December, US Housing

this apartment, real easy — the cabigars are still here and the floor's OK — for about \$5,000.

Gordon Valley is 200 bullet-riddled, low-cost apartments. It's also the newest stop on Ms Hartman's daily — and nightly — part of her 11 low-cost apartment complex.

Wearing her bulletproof vest, Ms Hartman evicts drug users and pushers, makes loiterers disperse and punishes litterers. She says it's the only way to keep the "good tenants."

"Ms Hartman, she'll work with you," said Ann Parks, who has lived at Oak Valley Court, a complex that won a federal rental

rehabilitation award, for a year. "I help, though. When they fight out here, I talk to both sides to try to stop it. I say this neighbourhood ought to get along together."

Ms Hartman spends about \$10,000 a month on 24-hour security for the completed units. She has fenced in the largest, overpopulated Atlanta, where tenants say they now feel secure.

"One time, a lot of young kids would be hanging around the corner all day, and you know what they were doing, with their gold chains on and their cars with the gold trim," said Donna Dawson, who has lived at the

complex two years. "Now, the tenants are real proud at how clean it is."

Ms Hartman doesn't believe she can stop drug trafficking. The traffic from overlook Atlanta simply moved across the street to a convenience store, she says. And one dealer, known to tenants as Frog, has managed to elude her.

"He was hassling me one day," Mrs Dawson said. "He said he was going to shoot me. But he's not as big as he'd like us to think he is." Other dealers repeatedly have threatened her.

Ms Hartman, 41, bought her first low-cost complex eight years ago. Three years later, she had 1,400 units throughout the city and a five per cent vacancy rate. Drug-related evictions have dropped her occupancy rate to about 30 percent.

She lost her own home and 122 units to foreclosure this year and hasn't made mortgage payments on some complexes since January. She expects a response on her request for federal aid, including a moratorium on back payments, within the month. Without it, she says she could lose everything.

Solar arrays causing wobble

WASHINGTON, May 12, (AP): Each time the sun comes up or goes down on the Hubble space telescope, the \$1.5 billion instrument wobbles slightly for reasons engineers still don't fully understand.

"It extends for several minutes, 10 or maybe 30 minutes after we come from the dark to the sunlight," Jean Olivier, a top NASA telescope official said yesterday. "It's only in the later two-thirds of the sunlight portion of the orbit that it begins to die down."

The telescope orbits earth every 97 minutes and goes through the dawn-to-dusk cycle nearly 15 times a day. The stabilization problem, which showed up earlier this week, is one of many headaches that have put setup work on the telescope far behind schedule.

Still, astronomers at the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Maryland hope they will see the first photograph from the telescope next Wednesday or Friday.

Olivier said scientists are all but certain that the telescope's solar arrays are causing the wobble. The two arrays, 40 feet by 8 feet (12 metres by 2.4 metres), gather energy from the sun. The energy is converted to electricity to provide power for the telescope.

"What we haven't determined is what is exciting the solar arrays," Olivier said.

Olivier said the astronauts of Shuttle Discovery, who put the telescope into its orbit on April 25, saw a slight twist in one of the arrays — about a 4 inch (10 centimetre) difference between one side and the other. But, Olivier said, it is not known whether that is causing the problem.

"It's not conclusive what that means, it's just an observation the crew made. We're taking it, like everything else, as something to look at," Olivier said.

The telescope is also rolling slightly, but project scientist Ed Weiler said that an exposure is expected to disappear once the instrument finds star arrangements that match the pattern stored in computers.

The first picture to be taken by the telescope is to have a one-second exposure. The roll is so slight, Weiler said, that an exposure would have to last 10 to 20 minutes before any movement was visible in the resulting photograph.

■ Five of the Mercury Seven astronauts, America's first and perhaps most beloved space explorers, returned to their history-making roots Friday to help dedicate the astronaut Hall of Fame.

They reminisced about some of the more light-hearted moments of three decades ago, praised those who have followed in their footsteps and stressed the need for science and space education.

Drug lord's cash seized

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, May 12, (AP): FBI agents yesterday seized luxury homes, cars, and boats bought by residents who went on a spending spree after unearthing \$43 million buried on a erupted drug lord's farm, authorities said.

So far the FBI said it has traced \$11 million of the \$43 million in excavated cash. Agents also have confiscated millions of dollars worth of property bought with the treasure in his US commonwealth.

Agents seized the money and property under a federal law that allows the government to take the proceeds of drug trafficking, according to an FBI document filed in US district court in San Juan.

The money was found on the 9.7-acre (4-hectare) farm of alleged cocaine lord Ramon Torres Gonzalez, FBI spokesman Anibal Torres said yesterday.

Ramon Torres Gonzalez is a narcotics importer who has been directly involved for many years in the importation of multi-kilo loads of cocaine between Puerto Rico and the United States, the FBI court document said.

Residents of the area "sneaked" into Torres Gonzalez' farm in early March and took money buried in 22 plastic drums, the document said.

New technique announced Cancer treatment

TOKYO, May 12, (UPI): A new technique for treating advanced breast cancer in which some bone marrow is removed during exposure to chemotherapy and then replaced has proved successful in more than half the cases, an American cancer researcher announced at a symposium this week on conquering cancer drug resistance.

Dr Karen Antman, associate professor at the Harvard Medical School, presented figures Friday showing 58 per cent of the women who had a quart of bone marrow removed, undergone heavy chemotherapy and then had the bone marrow returned have recovered to the point where the cancer can no longer be detected and 32 per cent have shown no evidence of disease during follow-up intervals of 12-42 months.

Her study involved 258 women who were treated in the United States, Japan and Europe.

Advanced cases of breast cancer are extremely difficult to treat because the cancer spreads to distant locations and tends to become resistant to drugs normally prescribed, said a summary of Antman's research prepared by Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., sponsor of the symposium.

Mars trip to cost \$500b: Nasa

WASHINGTON, May 12, (AP): Saying you're going to Mars is one thing. Getting there and paying for it is another thing altogether.

President George Bush, who has spoken before in favour of returning to the moon and going on the Mars, got specific in Texas yesterday and set the deadline for 2019.

That coincides with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (Nasa's) plans, which revolve around setting up a base on the moon in 2004-2010, and on Mars 2016-2020.

Last year, after the President made a moon-Mars proposal, the space agency put the price tag at \$450 billion to \$500 billion for going to the moon and establishing operations there, then sending an expedition to Mars.

The \$15.2-billion Nasa budget that Bush proposed for the next fiscal year includes nearly \$1 billion for exploration — \$188 million of it for technology and definition studies for an advanced launch system, a probe called human observer, and a satellite called "Lifescat" which studies radiation biology problems.

As the President spoke in Kingville, Texas, the congressional office of technology assessment issued a report that said transportation needs for Bush's "human exploration initiative" would be substantial.

If the United States wants a permanent lunar base, missions to Mars or a space-based defence system, the report said, it should be prepared to spend \$10 billion to \$20 billion in development costs alone for new launch systems.

Pointing to the 21st anniversary of the first landing on the moon July 20, 1969, Bush declared: Thirty years from now I believe man will stand on another planet... I believe that before Apollo celebrates the 50th anniversary of its landing on the moon — the American flag should be planted on Mars."

In a speech last summer marking the 20th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing, Bush outlined a space policy that called for building a permanently manned space station, eventually returning to the moon and then mounting a mission to earth's nearest planetary neighbour.

Nasa's space station, Freedom, plagued by budget shortfalls, a soaring price tag and frequent resignations, is scheduled to be built in low Earth orbit starting in late 1995. But until Friday, the Bush administration had not

Bush speaks

President George Bush tips his hat before speaking to the graduating class at Texas P & I University on Friday, during a blustery day in south Texas. (Reuters wirephoto)

Deadline set to visit Mars

Bush gives no details

KINGSVILLE, Texas, May 12, (UPI): President Bush set a timetable Friday for an American visit to Mars, saying the United States should send astronauts to the red planet within 30 years — by 2019.

But the president provided no details about how such a costly programme would be paid for, when it should begin or whether the United States should work with other nations on such a venture, saying only that "30 years is a long time."

In a speech at commencement ceremonies at Texas A-and-I University, Bush put a timetable for the first time on his previous promise to send astronauts to Mars.

Senator John Glenn, Democrat of Ohio and the first American astronaut to orbit earth, said he thinks reaching Mars in 30 years is a reasonable goal, but added, "I hope we would beat that."

"It's going to be very expensive. But once again, if we are getting a research return back on each one of these steps out, which I believe we do get, then it's going to be very worthwhile," Glenn said at a Florida reunion of Mercury 7 astronauts.

John Pike, a space analyst with the Federation of American Scientists in Washington, questioned whether such a goal is politically realistic.

"The big question is, 'who's going to pay for it and why?'" Pike said. "The reasons he set out for doing Moon and Mars have not really generated much political support for spending a half a trillion dollars on this stuff."

Ecologists to back Indians to end destruction of the Amazon by ranchers, developers

set any kind of deadline for going beyond Earth orbit.

"Today, we're no longer just asking for the moon. We've been there. We're looking further, to carry the American adventure to wherever opportunity, curiosity and need will take us," Bush said.

In a speech reminiscent of John Kennedy's 1961 pledge to send astronauts to the moon within a single decade, Bush declared: "We stand at a halfway point in our exploration of the immediate solar system... thirty years ago, Nasa was founded and the space race began. And 30 years from now, Americans should land on Mars."

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servation of the Amazon," said a statement signed by Indian leaders and 30 environmental groups from North America, Europe and Peru.

The statement ended three days of often bitter debate between Indian leaders from five countries and ecologists in this sweltering port on the banks of the Amazon.

Indians had hoped the ecologists from Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and other groups would support their proposal for autonomy over their traditional rainforest homeland, a plan which ecologists said posed thorny political questions.

"We recognise the importance of indigenous peoples' own proposals for the management and con-



American director and actor Clint Eastwood seen in this production photo for his film 'White Hunter, Black Heart' shown in competition at the 43rd annual International Film Festival in Cannes on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Film debuts at Cannes

Eastwood speaks out

CANNES, France, May 12, (Reuters): The usually taciturn Clint Eastwood's acting career takes a new, laudacious turn in "White Hunter, Black Heart," which received its world premiere in Cannes yesterday.

Eastwood sprang to fame in "spaghetti" Westerns and

more than a husky "make my day" as detective Dirty Harry.

But he waxed positively wordy in his role as devil-may-care director John Wilson, a closely-modelled portrait of the legendary John Huston.

"You can't do this kind of film without being wordy," Eastwood told journalists intrigued by this new departure.

"Certainly, it's different to anything else I've played before, though I've played a wide variety of roles in the past."

Eastwood, who has been coming to Cannes for the last three years, both acts and directs in this production. The film is based on a story by screenwriter Peter Vieret, who went to Africa with Huston in the 1950's to shoot the star-studded classic "The African Queen."

But Vieret soon discovered Huston was obsessed with another kind of shooting — of an African elephant — a fixation which led Huston virtually to abandon his staff and came close to wrecking the entire project.

"I think this film has a big message about responsibility," said Eastwood. "The character at the end becomes a tragic figure because he allowed his obsession to kill someone he respected and has lost a bit of himself in the process."

Eastwood depicts Wilson as "a violent man given to violent action" — cruel to those he loves, sarcastic,

unpredictable, but redeemed by his rejection of racism, defence of the underdog, and determination to value art over box office receipts.

To write a movie you must forget that anyone's ever written it," says Eastwood, "and then you must forget that anyone's ever written it." He's totally tied to the blunder.

By an interesting twist of fate, the jury judging films for the prestigious Golden Palm Award includes Huston's actress daughter Anjelica. She was taciturn when quizzed earlier by journalists curious for her views on "White Hunter, Black Heart" saying only that she looked forward to writing a movie you must forget that anyone's ever written it.

"White Hunter, Black Heart" is regarded as a strong entry among the 19 works competing for the Palm at the 43rd Cannes Film Festival. The 60-year-old director's performance is also being tipped for a possible best actor award.

Although directors, publicity agents, hopeful actors and thousands of journalists have been streaming into the Riviera resort all week for meetings in seaside hotels, the festival only opened officially on Thursday with the screening of Japanese director's Akira Kurosawa's "Dreams."

Anthony Quinn, Lauren Bacall, Martin Sheen and his son Charlie were among the stars who climbed the steps of the festival palace under the photographers' flashes for last night's gala premier.

There were plenty of cleavages and midriffs on show but French actress Fanny Ardant was judged the best dressed in a glamorous black Yves Saint Laurent gown.

FAA reassigns security official

WASHINGTON, May 12, (AP): The nation's top aviation security official is being reassigned a few days before a presidential commission releases a report said to be critical of Federal Aviation Administration security measures.

Raymond Salazar's decision to become manager of the agency's Centre for Management Development in Palm Coast, Florida, isn't linked to Tuesday's scheduled release of the report by the aviation security and terrorism commission, FAA chief George Bush said Thursday.

"We needed a good man for the job and we've got one," Bush said.

But relatives of some of the 270 people killed in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, welcomed Salazar's departure as civil aviation security director. They blame Salazar for flaws in security before the Dec. 21, 1988, bombing and for what they say are failures to improve some conditions since.

Salazar has directed civil aviation security since 1986.

FAA officials declined to comment on whether the reassignment had anything to do with criticism of Salazar by victim's relatives and members of Congress, including some on the commission.

Salazar didn't immediately return to call seeking comment.

The seven-member commission, headed by former Labour Secretary Ann McLaughlin, will present its report on the Flight 103 bombing and other aviation terrorism issues to President George Bush on Tuesday.

The commission report will be "pretty hard on the FAA" and will call for some reorganisation, including setting up a high visibility special security office, according to a congressional source familiar with some of its recommendations. The source spoke on condition of anonymity.

Commission spokesman Patricia Moran said panel members have agreed not to reveal contents of the report

PEOPLE AND PLACES

PALM SPRINGS, California: Charles Farrell, who formed one of Hollywood's most romantic screen couples with Janet Gaynor and 20 years later became a television star, has died at 89, friends said on Friday.

They said Farrell, who died of heart failure at his Palm Springs home on Sunday, had asked that his death not be announced until he had been buried beside his wife, actress Virginia Vale.

Massachusetts-born Farrell, who was often mistaken for an Englishman because of his accent, made a number of films with Gaynor, including one of the last big silent film productions, *Seventh Heaven*, in 1927. Known as Hollywood's golden couple, they were among the top ten box office draws for two years. (Reuters)

NEW YORK: Mischa Raitz, a Soviet-born tenor who sang with New York's Metropolitan Opera, died on Thursday of heart failure at his home in New York. He was 59.

Raitz, who lived in New York and Tel Aviv, made his debut with the Metropolitan Opera in 1975 as Dimitri in *Porfirio Gomorrah*. He also sang Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Riccardo in *Un Ballo in Maschera* and, in a world-wide broadcast, Enzo Grimaldi in Puccini's *La Gioconda*. (Reuters)

AUSTIN, Texas: Lady Bird Johnson sank city officials' plans to rename Town Lake in the former first lady's honour only hours before the city council was to make it official in a special meeting.

Mayor Lee Cooke proposed the idea during a 25th anniversary celebration of President Johnson's inauguration, and a majority of the council agreed. Cooke said he hadn't expected Lady Bird's veto.

Mrs Johnson, who helped develop and beautify the popular recreation spot 20 years ago, wrote the officials that Town Lake "will always be a special place for me, but I will feel very self-conscious if it is named for me." (AP)

SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts: A prisoner assigned to pick up litter along a state highway has lived up to the name trustee.

Hampshire county jail spokesman Richard McCarthy said Tuesday that when the inmate discovered a bag discarded along the road containing more than \$1,100 in cash and cheques, he gave it to a corrections officer.

The money and cheques had been stolen in a January 12 break-in from the office for the aging in nearby Westfield.

"We never expected to see any of the money again," said Sophia Bouquet, executive director. "That young man should be commended for his honesty." (AP)



Tennis great sings

Argentine tennis great Guillermo Vilas debuts as a singer on Thursday in a Buenos Aires night club, accompanied by his fiancee Michal. Vilas sang at a local recording studio on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)



Losing battle

Entertainer Sammy Davis Jr weighs only 60 pounds and appears to be losing his battle with throat cancer, a close friend said on Friday. He is 64 years old.

Baccarat binge at Trump Casino

High roller loses \$10m

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey: May 12, (AP) — The group of high-rolling baccarat players who bet \$200,000 a hand at one of billionaire Donald Trump's casinos ended up down about \$10 million after their week-long binge.

Kashiwagi sat yesterday that Japanese businessman Akio Kashiwagi had been up by nearly 10 million earlier in the week before the cards turned against him and for the casino.

"He was up \$9.6 million and then we had a good run," Trump said in a telephone interview.

Kashiwagi attracted a gathering of amazed small-time players whenever he came down from his 37th floor suite to play \$100,000 a hand while two companions placed \$50,000 bets. Trump said he tried to come back and play Thursday after surren-

dering early that morning \$10 million in the hole.

"We said, 'forget it, that's enough,'" Trump said. "Frankly, you have to be in the mood."

Kashiwagi sat at the baccarat table Thursday with \$1 million in chips while his companions had \$500,000 apiece. He got up before any of the cards were dealt and did not return.

Trump said he did not know if Kashiwagi would return to play again. In February, Kashiwagi won \$6.2 million from Trump Plaza at baccarat, a high-stakes card game where players seek a "pair" or hand that comes closest to totaling nine. Face cards are worth zero.

Trump acknowledged allowing Kashiwagi to play a gamble but said that's part of the casino business.

"It's risky, but I like it," he said.

BELLINGHAM, Washington:

Three dozen tiny bridges were smashed to splinters before Chris Renoud was declared winner of the 13th national bridge building contest.

Renoud's triangular structure supported nearly 5,500 times its weight.

"It's nice to win. But building a good bridge is more important," Renoud, 18, of Bellingham told a cheering crowd at a hotel where the

weekend contest was held.

He won a half-tuition scholarship to the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Contestants, some from as away as New York and Florida, had to build the sturdiest one-ounce (28-gram) wooden bridge. Renoud's measuring about a foot (30.4 centimetres) long and six inches (15.2 centimetres) tall, supported 403 pounds (182.8 kilograms).

In exchange for the plea,

SAN FERNANDO, California: A pet Hummingbird landed a man in jail after police caught him wearing the bird as a necklace.

Ramon A. Ruiz, 26, of suburban north Hollywood, was sentenced to six months in jail after pleading no contest Tuesday to cruelty to animals and an unrelated probation violation in San Fernando municipal court.

In exchange for the plea,

prosecutors dropped a charge of willful injury to an animal.

Ruiz was arrested April 6 after police officers saw him walking in north Hollywood with the bird tied to a pink string around his neck.

The bird died a few hours after Ruiz was taken into custody.

Ruiz's public defender, Dean Misereri, said Ruiz had clipped the bird's wings so he could keep it as a pet.

Lotto jackpot

Mob kin wins

CHICAGO, May 12, (AP): They say that Anthony "Big Tuna" Accardo made part of his fortune from illegal gambling. But his son just became a millionaire on a perfectly legal, \$1 bet.

Anthony Ross Accardo stepped forward this week to claim his share of a \$3.9 million Illinois state lottery Lotto jackpot.

The younger Accardo, 54, and his partner, Joseph F. Cohen, 44, held a ticket that won half of the first prize from the April 7 Lotto drawing. The two said they were playing the "C" and A partnership to receive the payment.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported yesterday that Accardo is the son of "Big Tuna" Accardo, 54.

The younger Accardo, who has no criminal record, is a member of the Motion Picture Projectionists' Union. He said he would use his share of the winnings to take an early retirement.

Jerry Gladden, chief investigator for the Chicago crime commission, described the senior Accardo as "the head, or semiretired head, of organized crime in Chicago."

BATTLE CREEK, Michigan: Some people never throw anything away according to Scott Bruce, who came to this breakfast food mecca looking for old cereal boxes to add to his collection.

"Cereal boxes represent heroes of popular culture — the grain gods, I call them," said Bruce, a Cambridge, Massachusetts, collector who once started a hobby collecting cereal boxes.

"When a kid sits down with a bowl of his favorite cereal, he becomes one with his hero. It's like a secular communion rite."

Bruce, 34, is talking this week with cereal company executives as well as ordinary people who hoard cereal boxes, if there is such a thing.

Rare boxes can fetch up to \$1,000 said Bruce, who began his collection in 1983 and recently published a collector's magazine called *Flake*.

(AP)

GENEVA: Switzerland's most prominent animal rights campaigner Friday denounced government plans to allow sales of dog and cat meat as "monstrous and abominable."

François Weber, in a column in Lausanne's *Le Matin* newspaper, charged the proposed law endorsed "a kind of cannibalism."

Swiss federal authorities have proposed a sweeping revision of 1954 food regulations that would drop the ban on butchers' selling dog and cat meat. The aim is to bring Swiss law into line with the European Community. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: The late teen rocker Ritchie Valens has been honored with a posthumous star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The Valens star, the 1,913th dedicated along the celebrated walkway, was the first given to a Hispanic rock 'n' roll star.

"Ritchie left a legacy of love," said actor Lou Diamond Phillips, who portrayed Valens in the biographical movie *"La Bamba."*

Phillips joined members of Valens' family and about 400 fans at Friday's unveiling on Hollywood Boulevard. (AP)

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut: Architect Maya Ying Lin, who designed the Vietnam veterans memorial in Washington, DC, when she was a Yale student, has returned to her alma mater to mark the arrival of women undergraduates 20 years ago.

Yale has commissioned Lin to design a sculpture to celebrate new generations of Yale women on campus, culminating a yearlong observance of the 20th anniversary.

The monument "is more about the future than commemorating the past," Lin said Tuesday, and likely will include places where "people can sit and enjoy themselves." She would not discuss possible designs. (AP)

Liz develops new ailment

Remains hospitalised

SANTA MONICA, California: Elizabeth Taylor, still recovering from a near-fatal bout of viral pneumonia, has now contracted bacterial pneumonia and will remain hospitalized at least six more weeks, her doctor said yesterday.

A yeast infection also has entered her bloodstream, but despite the setback, Taylor's "spirits are good," said St John's Medical Centre spokeswoman Paulette Weir.

"The bacterial pneumonia very often follows the viral pneumonia. She's progressing well and we're quite optimistic," Weir said.

A close family member who asked not to be named said the actress was "disappointed" that she would have to stay in the hospital, but that she was "talking and playing games."

"The new developments are a big pain, but she's going to make it," the family member said, adding, "we're taking her a Nintendo game."

St John's, where Taylor has been hospitalized for nearly a month, listed her condition as stable.

Taylor developed the bacterial pneumonia in the hospital, Dr Bernard Weintraub said in a statement released through the actress's New York publicist, Chen Sum.

Taylor, 58, also developed a yeast infection that has entered her bloodstream.

As a result, Taylor "will be hospitalized for approximately six more weeks," Sam said.

Taylor's other spokeswoman, Lisa Del Favero, said her latest ailments were diagnosed within the past two days.

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True to the kindred points of Heaven and Home.

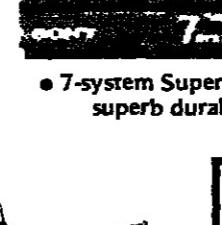
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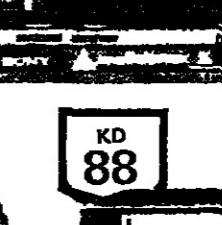
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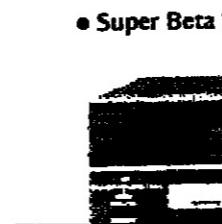
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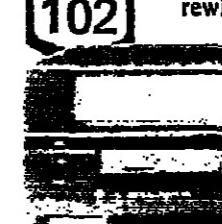
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MADE IN SONY WORLDWIDE EXCELLENCE

INTERNATIONAL

**Colombia,
Israel
visa pact
shelved**

BOGOTA, May 12, (AP): Protesting the smuggling of Israeli weapons to cocaine traffickers, Colombia yesterday suspended a 28-year-old treaty that allowed Israeli citizens to enter the country without visas.

Colombia's foreign minister notified Israeli Ambassador Gideon Tadmor of the decision yesterday, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. There was no immediate comment by the Israeli government.

The decision means Israelis who are in Colombia must apply for a visa from the government, and Israelis who wish to travel to Colombia must submit a visa application to a Colombian consulate.

Israel has claimed it has no knowledge of how a shipment of weapons it exported ended up being diverted to cocaine baron Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha. Rodriguez Gacha was slain in a shootout with police in December.

Israel has accused the national security adviser of the Caribbean country of Antigua, Vere Bird Jr., of playing a key role in diverting the shipment of Israeli-made arms to Colombia's notorious Medellin drug cartel.

Reports have said the weapons deal was arranged by two Israelis, Maurice Sarfati, a former Israeli Army officer, and Col Yair Klein.

Colombian officials have accused Klein, a reserve officer in the Israeli Army, of organising, training and equipping paramilitary groups, and declared him a fugitive from justice.

Klein has said the arms shipment was intended for a training school he wanted to set up in Antigua for Panamanian rebels opposed to Gen. Manuel Noriega, who was ousted by US forces in December.

When plans for the school fell through, he said, the weapons somehow were diverted to Colombia.

Assassinated

In other developments, the chief of security for the city of Medellin was assassinated yesterday while waiting in his jeep at a traffic light, and two more policemen were shot to death in the turbulent cocaine centre.

The shooting deaths of the two policemen yesterday, one in Medellin and one in the nearby town of Bello, appeared to signal a new surge in attacks on policemen. Seven officers were killed in 72 hours in or near the city.

Bogota news media figures show 72 policemen have been killed this year in Medellin, 160 miles (260 km) northwest of Bogota, where the Medellin cartel has offered a reward of \$4,200 for any hitman who kills a police officer.

Also killed Thursday was a retired police major in Medellin, and a mayor-elect of the ruling Liberal Party in the state of Norte de Santander. In other parts of the country, another eight people were killed in a shooting involving Colombia's turbulent Esmerald trade, along with three leaders of a peasant former organisation.

Haul

The Colombian Army said yesterday it had found another six tonnes of pure cocaine at a jungle collection centre in eastern Colombia, bringing the total seized in the area to a record 14 tonnes in the past week.

An army spokesman said soldiers had found six tonnes of the drug near a secret airstrip in Meta province, deep in the jungle hundreds of miles (km) east of the capital Bogota.

The airstrip was part of an illicit cocaine-trafficking complex raided last week by soldiers who initially seized eight tonnes of pure cocaine and four tonnes of cocaine base.

At 14 tonnes of pure cocaine, the find is now the biggest in Colombian history, outstripping the previous biggest seizure of 13.8 tonnes at the Tranquillandia and Vila Cocal complexes in the same area in 1984.

Authorities have said the collection centre, operated by the powerful Medellin cocaine cartel, was part of an international drug-smuggling operation involving Bolivia, Peru and Central America.

**Bus slides into
gorge, 48 killed**

Arequipa, Peru, May 12, (AP): A bus slid into a 600-foot-deep (200 metre-deep) gorge near this city in southern Peru, killing 48 people seriously injuring three, police said.

The bus, part of the Ormeno bus line, was headed to Lima from Arequipa, 345 miles (875 kilometres) southeast of the capital.

The accident occurred early yesterday between the towns of Tambillo and Vitor, 20 miles (30 km) west of Arequipa.

A spokesman for Ormeno said the bus was forced off the road by a truck driving in the wrong lane.

Nicaragua workers strike**Chamorro threatens mass firings**

MANAGUA, May 12, (AP): About 60,000 government workers staged sit-in strikes yesterday, demanding 200 per cent pay increases and paralysing the new administration struggling to rebuild Nicaragua's shattered economy.

In a showdown with the Sandinista-dominated civil service, President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's government threatened to declare the strike illegal and fire those who do not return to work.

The workers also were demanding that Chamorro reinstate a suspended law, approved by the leftist Sandinista government less than three weeks after it lost Feb 25 elections, giving them the right to organise unions, bargain collectively, and strike.

Government employees had rejected a 60 per cent pay increase Chamorro had ordered this week when she announced a 9 per cent devaluation of the cordoba, Nicaragua's currency. The cordoba has been devalued four times in less than a month.

Public employees — a majority of them Sandinistas — occupied almost all ministry buildings Thursday night and early yesterday.

Shouting "power to the people," about 2,000 workers broke through a cordon of about 100 police officers and occupied a plaza outside the presidential offices.

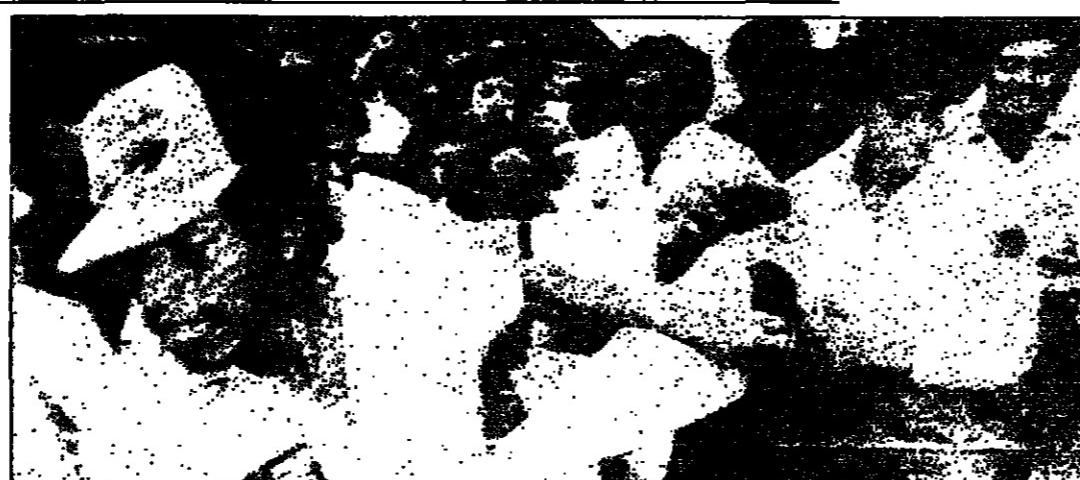
"Violeta, Violeta, respect the people," the workers in the plaza called out.

Union leaders who tried to meet with Chamorro to begin negotiating raises and restitution of a civil service law she suspended were turned away.

They then asked for a meeting on Monday and said the strike would continue until "the government begins negotiations."

Chamorro said her government cannot afford to meet the workers' demands.

"We have inherited a country



State workers affiliated to the Sandinistas Party try to force their way through a line of police outside Government House in Managua during a demonstration on Friday when they went on strike. (Reuter wirephoto)



Labour Minister Francisco Rosales threatened on Friday to fire 40,000 government workers who officially went on strike on Friday. He was speaking at the first press conference by President Violeta Chamorro since it took office on April 25. (Reuter wirephoto)



Surrounded by her ministers, President Violeta Chamorro answers a question on Friday at her first press conference since taking office in which she decreed to return to its former owners all land deemed illegally confiscated by the Sandinista government. Her government also threatened to fire 40,000 government workers who officially went on strike on Friday. From left are Presidency Minister Daniel Lacayo, Chamorro and Government Minister Carlos Hurtado. (Reuter wirephoto)

that was virtually sacked and in complete bankruptcy and it is our responsibility to get it going again," she told a news conference, held in the presidential

office building where 300 employees sat idle.

Labour Minister Francisco Rosales told the news conference: "Workers on strike

should return to their jobs, otherwise we will declare the strike illegal and apply the labour law and those who do not show up will be fired."

Castro lends hand to Noriega

'I've all the proof that proves accusations false'

MIAMI, May 12, (AP): Cuban President Fidel Castro has lent a hand to Manuel Noriega in his drug-trafficking case, the ousted Panamanian leader's lawyers said.

The Cuban president met with Noriega's defence team in March, attorney Frank Rubio said yesterday adding that he couldn't reveal what Castro told them due to the classified nature of the information.

The evidence (prosecutors) have against Noriega, then they have no proof which proves the falsehoods of the accusations."

The Cuban leader did not say what kind of evidence he gave the lawyers, but claimed "to have all the cards in my hands to irrefutably prove the lie."

According to a February 1988 indictment, Castro mediated a dispute in 1984 between Noriega and Colombia's Medellin drug cartel over a raid on a drug lab the Panamanian leader had supposedly been paid to protect.

Noriega is held at the federal metropolitan correctional centre outside of Miami awaiting trial on charges he took money from the cartel to make his country a safe haven for cocaine smuggling.

Yesterday, US district judge William H. Hoeveler ordered prosecutors to explain why it gave \$5.8 million confiscated from Noriega to Panama's new government.

Haul

The Colombian Army said yesterday it had found another six tonnes of pure cocaine at a jungle collection centre in eastern Colombia, bringing the total seized in the area to a record 14 tonnes in the past week.

An army spokesman said soldiers had found six tonnes of the drug near a secret airstrip in Meta province, deep in the jungle hundreds of miles (km) east of the capital Bogota.

The airstrip was part of an illicit cocaine-trafficking complex raided last week by soldiers who initially seized eight tonnes of pure cocaine and four tonnes of cocaine base.

At 14 tonnes of pure cocaine, the find is now the biggest in Colombian history, outstripping the previous biggest seizure of 13.8 tonnes at the Tranquillandia and Vila Cocal complexes in the same area in 1984.

Authorities have said the collection centre, operated by the powerful Medellin cocaine cartel, was part of an international drug-smuggling operation involving Bolivia, Peru and Central America.

**Bus slides into
gorge, 48 killed**

Arequipa, Peru, May 12, (AP): A bus slid into a 600-foot-deep (200 metre-deep) gorge near this city in southern Peru, killing 48 people seriously injuring three, police said.

The bus, part of the Ormeno bus line, was headed to Lima from Arequipa, 345 miles (875 kilometres) southeast of the capital.

The accident occurred early yesterday between the towns of Tambillo and Vitor, 20 miles (30 km) west of Arequipa.

A spokesman for Ormeno said the bus was forced off the road by a truck driving in the wrong lane.



Pope John Paul II kisses the casket of Luis Miguel Canton, bishop of Tapachula, Mexico, on Friday. Canton died on Thursday along with 25 others when their plane crashed on the outskirts of Mexico City. (Reuter wirephoto)

Call for end to racial tensions

Cool it, says NYC mayor

NEW YORK, May 12, (Agencies): In an impassioned speech to a city divided by racial clashes, Mayor David Dinkins called on New Yorkers to end the city's long history of ethnic conflict.

"This city is sick of violence and we're aching and we must heal the pain," Dinkins said yesterday in the 17-minute speech broadcast by several of the city's television and radio stations.

Dinkins, under fire from the media and supporters, offered to intervene personally in a confrontational, 4-month-long boycott by blacks of two grocery stores owned by Korean Americans.

"All of us want to live our lives in peace and dignity — free to walk any street and shop in any store, at any time, in any neighbourhood, without fear of force or violence," the city's first black mayor told about 300 invited guests.

"We will never allow any group or any person to turn to violence or the threat of violence to intimidate others no matter how legitimate their anger or frustration may be," Dinkins said.

He mentioned several racial conflicts, including the boycott in Brooklyn. That controversy has spilled over into the courts, where a judge chastised, Dinkins for not intervening.

In an isolated incident, a Korean grocery store owner reportedly assaulted a black woman in his store in Brooklyn's flatbush section. Some blacks have boycotted the store and mounted an angry picket since the incident.

Also, a brawl erupted last week at a Brooklyn college during a speech by a professor who believes in white superiority. A Columbia University sports banquet was disrupted by a soccer player's verbal attack on gays and Jews. Pulitzer prize-winning columnist Jimmy Breslin was suspended for two weeks by New York Newsday after slurring an Asian-American co-worker.

Guests at the speech — including religious leaders, city officials and representatives of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith — listened as Dinkins spoke in city council chambers.

Dinkins noted that New York has many problems, including expensive housing, crack, AIDS and a faltering economy.

"Unfortunately, some small-minded people prey upon these pressures, spreading a message not of unity but of division," he said. "I challenge all of the people of this city to reject these calls to bigotry."

Dinkins said blacks, Jews and immigrants from Ireland, Italy and other countries faced violence as they arrived here. "It's an old story, a cycle of immigration and discrimination that's as old as this city itself," he said.

Dinkins outlined a plan to heal the racial divisions, including formation of a bias strike force at the city commission of human rights and a study by the commission of discrimination in bank lending practices.

Hours before the speech, a black construction worker was beaten with bats and billy clubs by as many as five white men in the Brighton beach section of Brooklyn. The man was found wandering in Bensonhurst about a mile away from the attack and was treated for cuts and bruises, police spokesman Lt. Ray O'Donnell said.

Police said they didn't know whether the beating was racially motivated since the victim said no words were exchanged.



Black and white argument

A black woman and white youth argue in front of Brooklyn Supreme Court on Friday as two juries deliberate on the fate of two white youths charged in the death of a black youth. Two racially sensitive cases have focused media attention on racial strife in New York City. (Reuter wirephoto)

Tension boils in New York

Blacks-Koreans fight

NEW YORK, May 12, (AP): Police Capt. Vincent Kennedy, on duty in a neighbourhood torn by black-Korean tensions, thought his day was getting easier when he saw a group of protesters leave and go into a subway station.

He was wrong. Minutes later, the group streamed out of the station and a new confrontation erupted, a microcosm of the animosity that has pulled at the Flatbush neighbourhood for months.

The tension boiled over in January when a black Haitian immigrant said she has been beaten by employees of Red Apple, a Korean grocery store, who accused her of shoplifting.

In the past decade, Korean immigrants have opened hundreds of small groceries and fruit-and-flower stores in New York. The Koreans are widely resented in poorer neighbourhoods, where they are seen as outsiders taking the residents' money without contributing to the community.

After the alleged beating in January, Flatbush residents began a boycott of the store and a neighbouring Korean business. The boycott is led by Sonny Carson, a controversial black activist who has described himself as "anti-white."

Leaflets from the boycott have encouraged consumers to avoid patronising "people who do not look like us."

A state supreme court judge on Monday barred two groups from picketing, but the pickets continued through Wednesday.

Kennedy was on duty when a group of pickets left, apparently to go to the courthouse several miles (kilometres) away to hold a demonstration in connection with a hearing on the boycott.

Police said that an officer spotted one of the pickets trying to enter the subway without paying, tried to stop her and was jumped by other protesters. The woman ran away and one of the other protesters was arrested for interfering.

But witnesses had a different account, saying the officer had beat the woman and the man.

"I had only two customers who did three dollars worth of business today," Kim said after the newsmen had left. "Before the boycott, we would do \$2,000 in business a day."

The owner of the Red Apple employee, spent Wednesday afternoon watching television in the beleaguered shop and giving interviews to TV news crews from South Korea and West Germany.

"I had only two customers who did three dollars worth of business today," Kim said after the newsmen had left. "Before the boycott, we would do \$2,000 in business a day."

The owner of the Red Apple has told reporters his shop could survive for only two or three more months if the boycott continues.

A Korean immigrant who works in a neighbourhood store owned by her father said some blacks had been stealing recently — she believes in order to force a confrontation and give the activists an excuse to call for another boycott.

"We do not want to provoke anything, so let the few dollars (in stolen merchandise) go, to save trouble," she said.

Move 'versary

PHILADELPHIA, May 12, (AP): Religious leaders vowed at a memorial service to seek justice for the 11 people killed in the MOVE firebombing five years ago, but the federal deadline to file charges expires tonight.

The Justice Department said it expected no civil rights charges against police or the city before the statute of limitations runs out in the firebombing at the headquarters of the radical group.

Two dozen people attended a memorial service last night for five children and six adult MOVE members killed when Philadelphia police bombed the group's powerhouse. Officials allowed the ensuing fire to rage, destroying 61 other homes and leaving 270 people homeless.

Police were trying to dislodge a bunker atop a MOVE building after hours of gunfire.

Pope urges converts to return

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11 killed in worst Aussie air crash

SYDNEY, May 12. (Reuters): Eleven people, including the mayor of the Queensland tourist town of Cairns and a nun involved in charity work, died when their jet crashed in mountains in northeastern Australia.

Rescue officials said today two army doctors dropped from a helicopter had found no survivors in the wreckage of the 12-seater Cessna citation jet, which disintegrated when it ploughed into the ground near Mount Emerald, 15 kms (10 miles) south of Mareeba near Cairns.

The twin-engine jet, on an 80-minute charter flight from Proserpine to Cairns in northern Queensland, last made radio contact at 5.38 pm (0738 GMT) yesterday and was due in Cairns seven minutes later, Brisbane air traffic staff said.

An Australian army black Hawk helicopter spotted the wreckage late last night on a steep slope in rough country about 1,400 kms (870 miles) north of Brisbane, but was unable to get closer to the wreckage because of bad weather.

Electrical storms and heavy rain were sweeping across north Queensland at the time the plane disappeared. Flying conditions were "terrible," air traffic controllers said.

Keith Goodwin, mayor of Cairns, was returning with eight other local councillors from a local-government conference in Airlie beach. Also on the plane was the unarmed pilot and sister Nadia Giovanna del Popolo, guest speaker at the conference.

The crash is the worst since 13 people died when a twin-engined beech king air crashed on top of a sea wall at the end of a runway at Sydney airport during an emergency landing on February 21, 1980.

In December, 1988, 10 people were killed when a turbo-prop Mitsubishi MU2 crashed in an electrical storm in the western Australian outback.



Greek premier to visit United States in June

ATHENS, May 12. (AP): Conservative Premier Constantine Mitsotakis, who backs closer ties with the United States, will meet US President George Bush for talks in Washington June 6, the premier's press office announced today.

US Ambassador Michael Sotirhos called on Mitsotakis at his parliamentary office today to relay Bush's invitation for the June 3-12 visit, the press office statement said.

Mitsotakis of the New Democracy Party was sworn in after national elections last April, ending 10 months of

coalition rule.

The 71-year-old leader has pledged to boost links with the United States and the Nato alliance.

Greece and the United States resumed talks last Monday on negotiating a new defence pact between the two countries after an earlier agreement expired December 1988.

If the United States has four bases and around 20 smaller units around the country, Bush will close two of the bases as part of defence cost-cutting measures around the world.

Gendarmes arrest 4 neo-Nazi skinheads

Communists react sharply to Le Pen

PARIS, May 12. (Agencies): Police investigating the desecration of tombs and a corpse at a Jewish cemetery at the town of Carpentras arrested four neo-Nazi skinhead suspects today and a communist leader accused right-wing extremist Jean-Marie Le Pen of behaving "like Goebbels" in the affair.

Gendarmes said they rounded up the four suspects at dawn in the southern city of Avignon 30 miles (30 km) southwest of Carpentras, where authorities discovered at least 34 caskets unearthed Thursday morning, marble headstones smashed and the body of an 80-year-old man impaled on a parasol handle.

in this country," former communist presidential candidate Andre Lajoinie said. "As is the habit with people of his species, he makes provocations, diversions, like (Nazi propagandist Joseph) Goebbels did."

Protest

Municipal officials at Carpentras announced they would close stores and stay indoors for 15 minutes Sunday morning, turning the quiet provincial streets into a "dead town" in a sign of solidarity with the Jewish community.

The protest was timed to coincide with religious ceremonies that the chief rabbi of France Joseph Sitruk will preside over at the cemetery Sunday.

Sitruk said that the incident was "the defeat of a civilisation." Speaking at a synagogue at Neuilly on the outskirts of Paris, Sitruk called on "all democrats, all men who prize liberty, to demonstrate with us" during a big rally to be held in the capital Monday to protest the profanation of the tombs. "This must be the most majestic rally of the post-war period. All of France must be there," the chief rabbi said.

Several non-Jewish politicians including mayor of Paris Jacques Chirac joined the congregation at the synagogue to show support for French Jews.

Police said at least four people took part in the desecration, using crowbars and shovels to unearth the caskets and lift heavy marble tombstones.

"I hope this is the work of an unbalanced person, for Carpentras is a peaceful town that has never known such horrors," said Carpentras Mayor Jean-Claude Andrieu.

The vandals also attempted without success to remove the body of a woman from one of the coffins they had unearthed.

Shame

Relatives of the dead were distraught. "They impaled Felix my husband, they ought to be impaled themselves" said Magdalene German, the widow of the 80-year-old man whose body was dug up and transfixed.

"It is a shame. I am so very unhappy," the 75-year-old widow told reporters between sobs. "They avenged themselves on the most fresh tomb, because he was the last one interred."

Socialist Interior Minister Pierre Joxe accused Le Pen of whipping up a climate of hatred conducive to such racist acts.

"One knows very well that his ideas carry along the weak spirited, those who consider themselves strong some groups, and can lead, like other anti-Semites in history, to crimes, to acts of violence of a proportion that exceeds the imagination."

Le Pen told a news conference yesterday that to find the authors of the crime "one must search either among the communists' side or it could be also subversive Islamic movements."

Outrage

The attack on the cemetery has touched off outrage in Western Europe, but vicious anti-Semitic incidents occasionally surface in some states still haunted by the Nazi holocaust of Jews.

Berlin, capital of Hitler's Third Reich, is one example. Rightists have attacked Jews in both West and East Berlin in recent weeks.

Floods wreak havoc in Texas

DALLAS, May 12. (AP): Floodwaters that wreaked havoc in Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma swelled into Louisiana today and forecasters said residents in low-lying areas were not out of danger.

Intermittent rains fell yesterday in the region and were forecast for the next few days.

The crest of the Trinity river, which soaked north Texas after heavy rains a week ago, headed for the gulf coast, and authorities warned residents northeast of Houston to expect more flooding by next week.

About 7,000 lowland residents downstream of Lake Livingston dam, 60 miles (96 kilometers) northeast of Houston, were told to evacuate their subdivisions. Three subdivisions in Liberty county remained cut off from main roads by rising water, said Jim Mitchell, the county's emergency management co-ordinator.

However, many homes in the area sit on nine-foot (three metre) stilts and "most people are riding it out," he said.

Another skinhead, a 25-year-old neo-fascist, was cleared and released this morning after being held overnight at police headquarters. Officers said that as well as investigating ultra-right suspects, they were exploring the possibility that the profanation might have been carried out by drug addicts.

The French Communist Party reacted with outrage today at a suggestion by National Front leader Le Pen that communists might have been responsible for the desecration.

"He bears a heavy responsibility for the climate that has been created

Third World plight worsens

GENEVA, May 12. (AP): Measles kills a child every 15 seconds in the Third World, and two women die every minute from lack of basic health care during pregnancy or childbirth, a senior World Health Organisation official said Wednesday.

Michel Janclos, WHO's head of international co-operation, said although funds were available for health projects, the world's poorest countries were often unable to use the money, because they had no health care infrastructure or trained staff.

Janclos told a press conference the situation was most acute in Afghanistan and Cambodia, and in the African states of Chad, Sudan and Guinea-Bissau.

Meanwhile Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe told WHO's annual assembly that foreign debt repayments were one of the factors preventing improvements in health and the standard of living in the Third World.

He said rising import costs and inflation in the industrial world added to the problems, citing the example of a 700 per cent increase in the price of an ambulance in Zimbabwe since 1988.

Mugabe criticised unnamed rich countries for adding to the poor's environmental and health burden.

The link between poverty and health is one of the themes of WHO's 167th annual assembly that started Monday.

In his opening address Tuesday to the two-week meeting, WHO Director-General Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima said up to 30 million children in the Third World would die prematurely during the 1990s from diseases like polio and measles that could be prevented by vaccines.

He said diarrhoeal diseases could cost the lives of 40 million children. Acute respiratory diseases like pneumonia, linked to poor nutrition and low income, would kill a further 40 million.

The Japanese physician said 30 million people would die of tuberculosis, with almost 95 per cent could be saved with basic treatment.

Malaria would take a further 10-20 million lives, he said. He added that most of the 5-10 million people infected with AIDS would die during the decade.

World-wide, cancer and heart disease were expected to remain the biggest killers, accounting for 170 million deaths during the 1990s, he said.

Janclos, a Belgian national, said that in an effort to improve the plight of the world's poorest, the UN health agency had signed technical agreements with 14 Third World governments to help them develop a permanent health care system.

Le Pen told a news conference yesterday that to find the authors of the crime "one must search either among the communists' side or it could be also subversive Islamic movements."

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INTERNATIONAL

World News Roundup

America

Top Thornburgh aid quits: The second highest official at the US Justice Department quit Friday, less than two months after he was undercut by Attorney General Dick Thornburgh for seeking tough mandatory sentences for white-collar criminals.

Deputy Attorney General Donald B. Ayer, who had only joined Thornburgh's team last November, said he was returning to his old law firm. (UPI)

4 kids die in house fire: Fire that swept through a house after a woman left her seven children unattended killed four young girls and critically injured two of their brothers, authorities said Friday.

The girls ages 5, 6, 8 and 9, were pronounced dead at a hospital hours after they were pulled from the fire Thursday night at the two-story wood-frame house just north of downtown Milwaukee, police Lt. Roosevelt Harrell said.

The victims' identities were not immediately released. (AP)

Mohawk violence: The state police are still needed at the St Regis Indian reservation, the scene of violent struggle over gambling rights, Gov. Mario Cuomo said Friday in Albany, New York.

Cuomo said at a news conference that a Mohawk police force eventually could replace the state troopers occupying the reservation, but that "getting to that point will be difficult." (AP)

Killer executed: Convicted killer Wm. Ford Stokes was executed by lethal injection Friday night for strangling and stabbing a woman to death 12 years ago.

Both the US Supreme Court and the 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals in St Louis denied last-minute requests to block the execution Friday. Stokes, 39, was pronounced dead at 9:39 pm (0239 GMT Saturday) after receiving separate lethal doses of sodium pentothal, pavlon and sodium chloride at the Potosi correctional center. (AP)

Broke Soviet circus stranded: The Great Circus Barn Barn, out of money and far from home in the Soviet Union, was stranded in an Atlanta suburb Friday, looking for the cash to finish what was to be a two-year goodwill tour of the United States.

"I've been all over the world and this is the first time this has ever happened," said Viktor Lomakin, who was a chimpanzee act in the stranded circus. "We have a great show. Not being able to perform is like taking a piece of gold and throwing it out." (UPI)

New birth pills: New birth control pills, containing one-fifth as much estrogen as the original pills, are safe for non-smoking women in their 40s and do not raise the risk for blood clots or cancer, researchers report in San Francisco.

Dr Daniel R. Mishell, chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Southern California School of Medicine, and other doctors gave the update Monday. (AP)

Stop spoon-feeding: Science teachers should stop spoon-feeding facts to students and allow them to "discover the sheer pleasure" of understanding science, a report said.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science said conventional methods of teaching science should be abandoned for more student-conducted experiments, specific goal setting and group work to allow students to analyse scientific principles. (AP)

Invention convention: Chuck Henager devised a concrete building joint that makes buildings more resistant to earthquakes.

Ray Moore invented a salt-based fluid that removes impurities from industrial smokestack gases.

Doug Elliott and Eddie Baker found a way to get more usable material from low-grade crude oil, which could help reduce the nation's reliance on foreign sources.

They were among 344 people honoured April 19 at an "invention convention" that was part of Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory's 25th anniversary celebration. (AP)

Fuel leak touched off ship fire: A fuel leak in one of the USS Conyngham's boiler rooms touched off the fatal fire that sent smoke and flames racing through the guided-missile destroyer, the ship's skipper said.

Cmdr. William R. Williams told reporters Friday he feared he might lose his ship and had small boats in the water in case it had to be abandoned. (AP)

Ex-Nazi SS officer held: A man identified on a US immigration computer list as a former German Nazi SS officer was charged in US district court in Honolulu Friday with failing to disclose his Nazi past when applying for a US visa.

Joseph Alyokos Goertz, 76, traveling on a visa issued in Stuttgart, West Germany, was ordered held without bail following arraignment before magistrate Bert S. Tokairin, who scheduled a detention hearing for Tuesday. (AP)

Europe

Miracle at Lourdes under study: Catholic Church authorities said Thursday they will study the case of a 35-year-old Irish man to determine whether his ability to walk again after being paralysed is the result of a miracle.

Peter Clark, a former taxi driver from Swords in Dublin county, told church authorities earlier this week that he had been able to get out of his wheelchair and walk again after a visit to the Massabie Grotto in Lourdes last year. (AP)

4 Italian officials charged: The police chief of Rome's airport, its ex-director, and two interior ministry officials have been accused of attempting to suppress warnings of a 1985 airport attack, judicial officials said on Friday.

Investigating magistrate Maria Cordova issued formal summonses to the men following legal proceedings by the families of some of the 16 people who were killed when four Palestinian



Novelist dead



Ecology Generation

French Environment Minister Brice Lalonde makes a point during a press conference where he announced the creation of a new environmental party, 'Ecology Generation,' on Friday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Gatwick airport US loans UK bomb detector

LONDON, May 12. (AP): Baggage travelling through London's Gatwick airport will be screened by an advanced bomb detecting machine, the government said yesterday.

The thermal neutron analysis (TNA) machine is on loan from the US Federal Aviation Administration for a one-year trial at the airport 24 miles (39 kilometres) south of the British capital.

The FAA's decision to install the machines in airports around the world was prompted by the bombing of Pan American World Airways Flight 103 in December 1988 over Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 people on board the Boeing 747 and 11 people on the ground were killed when a bomb in the jet's luggage compartment exploded and brought the aircraft down on Lockerbie.

Ians attacked Rome's Fiumicino airport on Dec. 27. (Reuter)

Rise in cholera victims: Reported cases of cholera increased 10 percent last year to 48,403, the World Health Organisation said Friday.

The number of countries reporting outbreaks rose to 35, five more than in 1988, and evidence suggests several other governments failed to declare the disease, WHO said.

Nearly three-quarters of the listed cases occurred in Africa, where the disease resurfaced in three countries reported cholera-free in 1988 — Mozambique, Niger and Zambia. Sao Tome and Principe reported its first outbreak, totalling nearly 4,000 cases. (AP)

11 killed in Soviet floods: Floods killed at least 11 people, left three missing, and the evacuation of 18,400 others in the Bashkiria region of the southern Ural mountains, local officials said Friday.

The Soviet press has been largely silent about the flooding, which began about a week ago when the Belaya, or white river, overflowed its banks because of heavy rains and melting snow. (AP)

Reward offered for missing hiker: The parents of Belgian climber Luc Poppe, who vanished a month ago in the forests of Mount Kenya, offered a \$10,000 reward Thursday to anyone finding their son alive.

"They are very desperate," said Belgian embassy spokeswoman. "Nothing has been found for a long time."

Poppe, 32, was last seen April 9 at Austria's Hutscher, a shelter about 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) up the southeastern side of the giant 5,100 metre (17,000 feet) mountain, which lies on the equator 90 miles (145 km) north of Nairobi. (UPI)

Syrian held in Greece: A Syrian businessman has been arrested in Greece and accused of attempting to smuggle gold and pearls worth more than \$200,000, police said on Friday.

Ahmed Samir, 40, was on his way from Geneva to Damascus when he was stopped at Athens airport by customs officials who said they found nine plaques of gold and 1,000 pearl necklaces in his luggage. (Reuter)

Chewing gum on school menus: Health officials recommended giving Finnish kids chewing gum with their meals in school cafeterias because it's good for their teeth. But educators are worried it could create a sticky problem. (UPI)

Strong quake jolts Soviet island of Sakhalin: Japan reports

TOKYO, May 12. (AP): A severe earthquake shook the Soviet island of Sakhalin today. Japan's central meteorological agency reported.

The quake registered 7.7 on the Richter scale and struck at 1:51 pm (0451 GMT) about 600 kilometres (370 miles) below the eastern coast of central Sakhalin, the agency said in a preliminary report. The epicentre was about 1,450 kilometres (900 miles) north of Tokyo.

The Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK)

said it contacted a Soviet weather observatory near the earthquake's epicentre and was told there were no injuries or reports of damage other than overturned furniture.

The earthquake was felt in many parts of northern Japan, but there was no threat of tsunami, or powerful ocean waves triggered by seismic disturbances, the central meteorological agency said.

Japanese police said they had received no reports of injuries.

An earthquake registering 7.7 on the open-ended Richter scale can devastate populated areas if it strikes nearby, but much of the strength of today's quake was likely to have dissipated below the earth's surface because of its depth. There were no reports of damage or injury.

The earthquake that hit the San Francisco bay area of California last October, killing 67 people, registered 7.1 on the Richter scale.

Agency officials said the earthquake registered 3 on the Japanese scale of 7 in Kushiro and Morioka in northern Japan, and lesser amounts as far south as Tokyo and Yokohama.

The Japanese scale measures ground motion at particular locations, and is not convertible with the Richter scale, which measures the total magnitude of an earthquake. A quake registering 3 on the Japanese scale can shake houses and buildings.

China harassing students in US

Couple wins political asylum

WASHINGTON, May 12. (Agencies): Senator Edward Kennedy charged yesterday that China has mounted a campaign to control Chinese students in the United States, and he urged the Justice Department to begin an immediate investigation.

Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, said official Chinese government documents received by the Senate Immigration Subcommittee Thursday "confirm a calculated practice on the part of the Beijing government to harass Chinese students in America who dare to advocate democracy for their country."

The disclosure of the anti-student campaign came as President Bush considers whether to retain China's most-favoured-nation trade status. He must notify Congress June 3 of his decision.



Moscoescorted

A US embassy official (left) escorts Mosco from Nonthaburi jail, May 10. (Reuter wirephoto)

Police block Protest march

SEOUL, May 12. (Reuter): Riot police fired tear gas today to disperse 3,000 chanting protesters trying to march to a Seoul cathedral after a rally against President Roh Tae-Woo's ruling party.

The US government has been investigating allegations that Chinese officials have been harassing US-based Chinese students who are critical of the Beijing government, the State Department said yesterday.

The statement by department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler followed allegations by a defector from the Chinese embassy who reported that embassy officers had been ordered to intimidate critics and court more ambivalent students.

The comments of the defector, Xu Lin, appeared in Friday's editions of the Washington Post.

Mrs Tutwiler said that as the investigations proceed, "we will continue to take appropriate action to afford Chinese students here the full protection of United States law."

"We have advised the Chinese government on several occasions that harassment of its citizens in the United States would violate our laws and would damage our bilateral relationship," she said.

■ A Chinese couple who fled their homeland's harsh family-planning laws has won the State Department's backing in their quest for political asylum in the United States, their lawyer said.

The State Department ruling Friday effectively grants asylum to Li Jin Lin and his wife, Wang Sai Zhen. They are the first known refugees to test President Bush's order establishing a specific students here the full protection of United States law.

■ More than 30 Chinese people, some said to have fled China after the crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Beijing, will be deported tomorrow after rejection of their pleas for political asylum, the British Home Office confirmed today.

The government has vowed to stamp out any further violent protests following the biggest demonstration in over a year on Wednesday night involving nearly 100,000 people nationwide.

Police stormed the Hyundai Shipyard in April to evict striking workers.

Students mar Seoul's image

A safe place to visit, invest

SEOUL, May 12. (AP): Once again, riotous students in the streets and thousands of workers jabbing clear, red sticks in the air have marred South Korea's public image and alarmed the government.

For years, South Korea has been assiduously building an image for itself as a safe, stable place to visit and invest. Its economic miracle has bolstered the picture of a strong, industrialized nation.

Yet the South Korean government's popularity is at an all-time low, and its export-fuelled economy has sagged. Inflation is running in double-digits, workers are demanding higher wages and rising crime rates.

Workers, who feel they deserve to have more say in the business and personnel decisions of companies they work for, are accusing the government of clamping down on labour rights and siding against them with big business.

Radical students, who have long considered themselves the political conscience of the nation, see economic and political turmoil as the government's fault and are demanding it be overthrown.

In time-honoured Korean fashion, complaints are registered with protests, and the demonstrations have turned violent. Though the latest demonstrations are far smaller than those three years ago that forced electoral reforms, the government is cracking down hard to save itself as well as its international image.

Last Wednesday, about 100,000 students hurling firebombs and rocks fought police in 17 cities, the largest anti-government demonstrations since 1987. Radical students have vowed they will continue.

Nepal queen leaves council

KATHMANDU, May 12. (UPI): Queen Aishwarya, in a rare public statement, said Friday she had not embezzled money from social institutions and did not head things called "Mandales" linked to looting and arson last month after Nepal's first multi-party government in 29 years was installed.

The 40-year-old wife of King Birendra resigned as chairman of the Social Services National Co-ordination Council, saying she didn't have a single penny in any foreign bank. She has not taken a penny from the council either.

She denied charges that she headed the "Mandales" and said she did not hide money under a false name abroad.

During the successful seven-week movement to re-establish multi-party democracy in Nepal, wallposters said that "Pamp Devi Thakuri" had millions of dollars in foreign bank accounts and slogans were raised against her during demonstrations.

The queen, who is a poetess, said her only other name was Chadani Shah.

Other posters accused the queen of being chief of the "Mandale." The word means a gangster and is used to describe hardened supporters of the now disbanded partyless Panchayat System that was controlled by the Royal Palace the past three decades.

King Birendra last night accepted the resignation of the queen as the chairperson of the Social Services Council and appointed Minister for Social Welfare Nilambhar Acharya as temporary chief.

The council is responsible for co-ordinating and approving charity provided by foreign non-governmental groups for projects in Nepal.

In a related development, the Royal Palace announced that no member of the royal family was involved with any institution derailing the new multi-party government.

This came after foreign press reported thousands of members were behind the "Mandales."

Some of the foreign press have reported wildly of the involvement, in some form or other of members of the royal family with the so-called vigilante groups engaged in derailing the newly-installed multi-party democracy," said the palace statement.

Other members of the royal family also head social organisations such as the Nepal Red Cross which is headed by an aunt of the king.

Meanwhile, the formation of a seven-member constitutional reform commission by Birendra Friday, without consulting the interim government of Prime Minister of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, has created confusion and a communist appointee refused to join it.

Bharat Mohan Adhikari, a communist, said "as a disciplined cadre of the Nepal Communist Party (Marxist) there is no question of my joining the commission. I do not accept the commission."

The union is demanding an 18 per cent increase, the management has offered 5.9 per cent.

Hyundai Motor resumed normal operations only days ago after a one-week walk-out in sympathy with an abortive strike at Hyundai Heavy Industries company, also in southeastern Ulsan.

The king told Bhattarai that the commission would send its constitutional recommendations to the coalition government for its approval, rejection or changes.

In 1987, far larger protests by students and workers combined to force the government to accept reforms that eventually led to popular elections for the presidency and the victory for Roh Tae-woo.

In putting down this year's worker unrest, Roh's government gambled that the labour turmoil would blow over and not become a wider political issue. Wages have risen 50-60 per cent in the last two years and labour rights, not economics, were the concern.

Most workers returned to their jobs this week.

The government's heavy-handed manner of squashing the workers backfired; however, in that it was forced for radical students who have been

US no to Soviet arms offer

WASHINGTON, May 12, (AP): A senior US arms control negotiator yesterday rejected a Soviet plea for talks on cutting tactical nuclear weapons at sea, but the navy's chief officer told Congress such negotiations "could be in our interests."

The top arms adviser to Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev told Congress on Tuesday that future talks on other categories of nuclear and conventional weapons could be delayed by continued US resistance to naval arms.

Ronald Lehman, director of the arm control and disarmament agency, told a Senate panel the Soviet government had not formally established a link between naval weapons reductions and other forms of arms control. He said he hoped Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev was speaking for himself and not for Gorbachev on Tuesday.

Lehman said the administration remained optimistic that it could reach agreement with Moscow on the main provisions of a treaty cutting long-range nuclear weapons before Gorbachev arrives in Washington May 30 for a summit meeting. The leaders had hoped to sign at least the outlines of the treaty during the summit, although the US side says progress has slowed in recent weeks.

"We see no reason why we shouldn't be able to get an agreement" next week when Secretary of State James Baker meets Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow, he said.

Gorbachev proposed at his last meeting with Bush in Malta last December that the superpowers defer to negotiate cuts in short-range naval nuclear arms.

But Bush has resisted. He has argued such cuts would undermine the United States' position as the predominant maritime power.

Lehman said the Bush administration saw no way that negotiated reductions in short-range naval nuclear arms — mainly torpedoes, depth bombs and anti-ship missiles — would strengthen US security. He said it could harm the security of US allies.

"We've spent a lot of time studying it and we just haven't found it to be in US interests," Lehman told the armed services subcommittee on projection forces.

But Adm. Carlisle AH Trost, chief of naval operations, took a different approach. While expressing doubt about Soviet intentions in pursuing such negotiations, Trost said he could contemplate eliminating all tactical naval nuclear arms if related weapons such as bombers assigned to naval fleets were banned.

"If we could, with proper confidence in their willingness to abide by an agreement, be sure there were no nuclear weapons that threatened either side's ships at sea, I'm sure we'd both be more comfortable that way," Trost told the panel.

The armed services propose cutting two aircraft carriers and three new ballistic missile submarines and deferring plans for mobile land-based intercontinental missiles, according to published reports.

The proposals were contained in classified memoranda submitted to Defense Secretary Dick Cheney in response to his instructions to identify further cuts in the 1990s that will be submitted to a major review this summer, according to stories in today's editions of the New York Times and the Washington Post.

The memoranda cover the 1992 through 1997 fiscal years, and often incorporate known decisions, such as Cheney's plan for only 75 B-2 Stealth bombers instead of the original proposal of 132.

The State Department blamed the Soviet Union yesterday for blocking an "open skies" agreement to open up Nato and Warsaw Pact countries to aerial military surveillance.

Secretary of State James Baker is scheduled to leave Monday for a three-day series of meetings with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in what was supposed to be a push to settle arms control issues before the May 30 June 3 Washington summit.

Richard Boucher, a State Department spokesman, said the Soviets "have blocked consensus" on issues involved in the open skies conference, which opened in Ottawa in February. "We promise of an early agreement in a follow-up meeting this week in Budapest."

A Soviet proposal that a united Nato and the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact is absurd, East Germany's chief diplomat said Friday.

Foreign Minister Markus Meichel also said he "assumes" the Soviets would soon pull out about 195,000 troops of their 380,000 Red Army troops in East Germany, but gave no reason for his assumption.

The strategic future of a unified Germany is one of the key hurdles to German unification, which is expected next year regardless of the Soviet position.

Baltics accord revives council

Historic one-day summit

TALLINN, Soviet Union, May 12, (Agencies): The presidents of the three Baltic republics agreed today to restore a pre-war council co-ordinating their foreign and domestic policies as part of their efforts to gain independence from the Kremlin.

The accord to revive the 1934 treaty of unity and co-operation, and thereby recreate the Baltic council, was reached during four-and-a-half hours of talks at an historic one-day summit in the Estonian capital, Tallinn.

The documents were signed by Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, Estonian President Arnold Ruutel and Latvian President Anatoli Gorbunovs during a brief ceremony attended by reporters.

The council of Baltic states, will consist of the presidents and senior ministers of the three republics, and will make non-binding recommendations on the governments, Estonian officials said.



Baltic harmony

Presidents Anatoli Gorbunovs (left) of Latvia, and Vytautas Landsbergis (right) of Lithuania shake hands watched by Estonia's President Arnold Ruutel during their meeting in Tallin, Estonia. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bush plans

Citizens corps to help East

COLUMBIA, South Carolina, May 12, (AP): President George Bush today announced the creation of a volunteer "citizens democracy corps" to help Eastern European nations build political and economic institutions on a Western model.

The corps would set up a clearing house for US private assistance programmes that want to help East Europeans "to strengthen the foundations of free society in Eastern Europe," Bush told a graduation audience.

"We can help them build political systems based on respect for individual freedoms, for the right to speak our mind, to live as we wish, and to worship as our conscience tells us we must," he said in a university of South Carolina commencement address.

He also announced that the US Export-Import Bank will begin extending Poland a new line of medium-term export credits and loan guarantees to purchase US-produced machinery, technology and supplies.

The citizens democracy corps will match European requests for assistance with US private sector groups that have expressed a desire to help, the White House said in a statement.

He said the new democracies "will look to their own parliamentary past, to Europe's example, and of course, to our own American constitution," as they form their governments.

"That is why we must export our experience, our two centuries of accumulated wisdom on the workings of free government."

His remarks on democracy came on the heels of the administration's decision to call home its ambassador from Romania to protest the new government's reported tactics of intimidation and harassment of political opponents.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Walesa's criticisms unhelpful: Solidarity leader Lech Walesa's recent criticisms of the government he helped create do not serve the "good of the country," government spokeswoman Małgorzata Niżeborska said Friday.

Walesa in recent weeks has shifted from trying to nudge the government into accelerating the pace of reform to outright criticism of the government, now run by intellectuals linked with Solidarity for the last decade.

The Solidarity leader's remarks toughened Thursday when he told workers who had staged a brief work stoppage at the Gdańsk shipyard, where the free trade movement was born, that he was ashamed of the Solidarity-dominated government for failing to resolve the yard's future status. (AP)

Albania promises change: Albania on Saturday promised more changes to its orthodox communist system and said reforms announced this week were crucial to the country's development.

Prime Minister Adil Carcani made the pledge at talks with UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar who has pressed the issue of human rights on an unprecedented visit to Europe's last one-party

communist state. Carcani did not give details but a government spokesman briefing reporters on the talks said they would include "every area of development" including human rights. (Reuters)

Cashing life insurance policies: Many East Germans are cashing in their life insurance policies so they can have more savings on hand when their currency is converted to the strong West German mark, the government said Friday.

Long lines have been forming at state insurance bureaus to recent days because East Germans believe they will get a better exchange rate on cash than on insurance, the official ADN news agency said.

Honecker too sick to stand trial: East Germany's Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diestel has indicated that disgraced former communist leader Erich Honecker is too ill to stand trial on charges of corruption and misrule.

"A very ill, 77-year-old, physically fragile old man cannot stand before a criminal court," Diestel said in an interview with the West German newspaper Welt Am Sonntag released on Saturday ahead of publication.

activists.

The South African government is conducting an investigation into the CCB and allegations that police and military operatives killed anti-apartheid activists. Several former police officers have claimed they were involved in killing activists. But President F. W. de Klerk told the commission not to investigate activities outside South Africa.

Vrye Weekblad, which helped uncover the first public details about the CCB, said it obtained further information in an interview with former CCB official Petrus Jacobus Botes, who said he headed



Water unification

West German police hoses down protesters with water canons in Frankfurt yesterday demonstrating against the unification of two Germanys. About 20,000 people took part in the demonstration. (Reuter wirephoto)

Scuffle reported in poll campaign

BUCHAREST, May 12, (Reuter): Ion Ratiu, Romania's millionaire presidential candidate, alleged today that opponents of the ruling party suffered extensive intimidation in the campaign for the nation's first free elections in 50 years.

"We must do all we can to achieve our goal — the sovereignty of our three nations," Gorbunovs said when the talks opened.

"This is a unique historical event. We must join our hands together in a declaration of unity," said Ratiu.

In brief opening remarks to reporters, delivered in the native language of each before the closed meeting at the Toompea palace overlooking Tallinn's old town, the presidents spoke of their "common fate." They stood together and smiled for a horde of photographers.

Ratiu said he and his counterparts would sign four documents: one on political co-operation, a letter to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, a letter to US President George Bush, and a joint statement.

Gorbachev will travel to Washington at the end of this month for a meeting with Bush. The Baltic republics' drive for independence is expected to be a topic there, as well as a meeting between US Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow next week.

The Kremlin has slapped a tough economic embargo on Lithuania and signs of trouble continued to mount for the three republics.

Landsbergis was quoted today as saying up to 300,000 people soon will be unemployed if Moscow continues its economic blockade against the republic of 3.8 million people.

Landsbergis said Lithuania will have to tighten its belt so that fewer raw materials from the outside are needed, according to an English-language broadcast of Vilnius radio.

The US government angered the governing National Salvation Front (NSF) on Thursday by recalling its ambassador to Romania prior to the elections on May 20.

Washington is concerned about reports of intimidation of opposition candidates and questions whether the polls could be free and fair.

Meanwhile, the Information Bureau of the Lithuanian Supreme Council legislature reported in a statement that a column of more than 100 Soviet military vehicles rumbled through the capital Vilnius in the early morning.

It quoted witnesses as saying the convoy included 59 armoured personnel carriers.

Insulting or slandering President Mikhail Gorbachev could earn six years in prison under a draft law considered by the Soviet Parliament, Soviet media said.

The NSF, which assumed power after last December's revolution and is favoured to win the May 20 vote, has denied allegations that it was intimidating opponents of its own presidential candidate, Ion Iliescu.

Critics of the NSF say it is composed of people with close links to the regime of deposed and executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

The government says that its toleration of demonstrations that have blocked Bucharest's busiest thoroughfare for the past 20 days is proof that it allows freedom of expression.

"Show me any capital in the world where something like this would be allowed," one NSF official said.

Ratiu, 72, who made his fortune in property and shipping, returned to his homeland in January after campaigning for human rights in Romania for more than 40 years.

He said he had come back to help guide the country back to democracy and economic prosperity after 45 years of communist rule.

"But there is no way that the rulers of this country will let me explain to the people what I propose. They are afraid of me," he said.

His plans for economic reform of the country are for a gradual return to private enterprise, he said.

Doctors save handicapped

Romania's children

CIGHID, Romania, May 12, (Reuter): Doctors are fighting to save the lives of 113 mentally-handicapped Romanian children abandoned by their parents during the rule of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu to certain death in concentration-camp conditions.

At a children's home in Cighid, they are struggling under a grim legacy of neglect to prevent them from joining 62 children who died here last year and are buried in a small graveyard on the premises.

"This month not a single child died," Mihodora Hrimiuc, the institution's new head, told Reuters.

As reporters toured the home, near Romania's northwestern border with Hungary, children with hopeful smiles and big innocent eyes, starved of warmth of human contact, clung to my hands and legs wanting me to hold and carry them.

They played with my notebook, carried my Romanian translator's handbag and were fascinated by the noise of my car horn — objects they had never seen or heard before.

Shortly after last December's revolution, television footage of Cighid, in a wooded area at the end of a pitted gravel track, shocked both Romanians and the world, sparking a surge of sympathy.

A West German humanitarian organisation, Der Arbeiter Samariter Bund, has supplied Cighid with clothes, food, toys, washing machines, medicine and staff.

Before the revolution, the children slept in cages, were unwashed, underfed and unvaccinated and ran wild through the building naked and without anyone to care for them.

Now, a staff of two doctors, 10 specialised assistants and 26 nurses take the children outside for fresh air, play games with them and offer them constant physical contact and affection.

Some of the children, like five-year-old Cristian, are only now learning to speak because there was no one to talk to them before. Some with emaciated legs cannot walk because they were never taken out of their iron-barred cots.

"The conditions I found when I started working here were too horrible to describe," Hrimiuc said. "All of the children had lice, diarrhoea, skin infections and stomach diseases."

But now, she said, "the children are no longer like animals. They've become sociable. They want people around them."

Cighid was one of the most horrifying examples of the effects of Ceausescu's high birthrate policy which led destitute parents to abandon children to state orphanages.

It was once referred to by Romanians as the "death camp" or "terminus," a dumping ground for children with incurable mental handicaps. Few who were sent there ever came out alive.

Czechs demonstrate

PRAGUE, May 12, (AP): More than 100,000 people rallied in downtown Prague today to demand punishment for crimes committed under four decades of communist rule.

The demonstration, the biggest since a wave of street protests stopped communist leader Milos Jakes last November, was organised by the Confederation of Political Prisoners, an organisation of 8,000 people who were imprisoned for political beliefs.

"We want people to hear the truth about communism, we demand investigation of all communist crimes and just punishment for those who are found guilty," the confederation's 75-year-old chairman, Rudolf Pernicky, told a reporter.

"The Nazis preached racial hatred, the communists preached

hatred," the main speaker, Vladimír Struska, told the crowd in Wenceslas Square.

"The communists were the biggest and best organised mafia in the whole world, using the traditional methods: intimidation, pressure and blackmail," said John Bok, Parliament candidate for the radical party.

The protesters, chanting "punish, punish," shared Wenceslas Square with a group of about 20 hunger strikers demanding confiscation of unjustly acquired communist property and opening of the party's archives.

The hunger strikers, who have been fasting since May 6, received a visit last night from President Vaclav Havel, in a symbolic gesture of support for their demands, Czechoslovak television reported.

"We feel the day we have been waiting for might be close at hand," the anti-apartheid activist said after a rousing welcome by the exiles, at a training camp of the African National Congress outside Lusaka.

Winnie Mandela paid tribute to the militants working abroad, many for up to three decades.

"You have made us tall, made us feel we could challenge Pretoria with the knowledge you could hit where we inside (South Africa) couldn't," she said.

"You have always shown discipline and we hope you will show the same discipline when you come home ... to help us face a very difficult period in our history," she added.

■ South African Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu called yesterday for continued economic sanctions against the apartheid government in South Africa while optimistically predicting major new political reforms within the year.

"We need for you to maintain the pressure until the removal of apartheid is irreversible," Tutu told Mayor Tom Bradley and the city council during a special ceremony for the Nobel peace prize laureate at city hall.

■ The Australian government hopes to increase financial assistance to non-government organisations in South Africa to help dismantle apartheid. Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans said Thursday.

Athenians protest against De Klerk

Kuwaitis in Justice Ministry reach 40.3 per cent

Plans for further increase

THE assistant undersecretary for administrative and financial affairs at the Ministry of Justice Mishari Saad Thamer Al Mutairi has said that the percentage of Kuwaitis at the ministry reached 40.3 per cent.

Public posts

He told a local daily that the total number of staff at the ministry is 2,057, of which 830 are

Kuwaitis, adding that Kuwaitis holding judicial positions at the ministry account for 50.7 per cent and 43.6 percent specialists.

He pointed out that over the past ten years the number of Kuwaitis operating on the ministry's staff of advisors, judiciary and prosecution has tripled and the increase among non-Kuwaitis has not exceeded 61 per cent since 1979.

Mutairi further added that the

ministry plans to increase the percentage of Kuwaiti staff holding such positions by 20 per cent during its next five-year plan whereby to bring the percentage up to 61 per cent at the end of the plan.

He said the Kuwaitis holding ordinary public posts have on the other hand decreased since 1978 to reach a minimum of 22 per cent in 1982.

He pointed out also that

Kuwaiti staff decreased constantly in contrast to the number of non-Kuwaiti personnel, but the percentage evened out during the five last years reaching 34.1 per cent on Nov 20, 1989.

As to the positions of specialists, Kuwaiti specialist do not exceed 13 of the total 56 specialists at the ministry, but changes in the ministry policy has increased the number of Kuwaitis holding specialised

positions in 1989 to 31 on Nov 20, 1989, accounting for 43.7 per cent of the total specialist staff.

He said that the ministry spared no efforts in attracting more and more Kuwaitis into the judicial field, and arranged for special training courses to qualify them to hold responsible positions. Moral and financial incentives are also used to improve the level of staff performance.

Palestinians deprived of right to health: Rifai

43rd session of WHA

sure on doctors and nurses, and even health workers were under attack.

He said it was not essential to recount details of thousands of Palestinians who have been wounded, hundreds imprisoned and as many who have faced martyrdom, and the tortures being inflicted — under the tyranny of Israeli colonialism.

Since

43 years, Dr Arafat said, the Palestinian people had benefited from thousands of agencies and friendly countries but the channelling of health assistance was a serious problem.

Chatty drew attention to the social and health impact of the occupied territories. "We call on the organisation to continue its efforts in improving the health conditions of the Arab population in the occupied territories, South Lebanon, Gaza, and Golan."

Concern

Speaking about the health situation within Syria, Chatty noted that the health welfare of citizens in his country was a major concern to authorities since health is a right of every citizen.

He observed that training is mandatory for all students after the intermediary school level. Moreover, in universities there are some 11,000 medical students, 1,500 studying pharmacy, and 3,000 nursing students.

Quality of health has also improved considerably in Syria. According to Chatty, mortality rates decreased from 17 per 1,000 inhabitants to 8 per 1,000 and the average age increased from 52 to 64.

Chatty emphasised that the quality of medical institutions and technology in developing countries was "far below what it should be" and called upon WHO to redress this unacceptable situation.

Dr M. Al Zaban, Minister of Health of Jordan said that while health is a sacred right of all humans, efforts in his country were being impeded by occupation and wars which are going on, especially in the Near East.

He recalled the hardships that the Arab people of Palestine are living through and the fact that the occupying authorities reject the international political will that states that the rights of the Palestinian people have to be restored.

The Palestinian people have been living a tragedy for nearly half a century in harsh conditions of disease and poverty. In addition, the original inhabitants are being displaced in order to make room for newcomers whose interests are protected by the occupying authorities.

The Jordanian health minister appealed to all countries of the world to stand steadfast behind justice and right before it is too late. "Justice, if it comes too late, cannot be distinguished from injustice."

Dr Zaban indicated that despite economic difficulties that are directly affecting his country, Jordan is sparing no effort to achieve better health coverage for its citizens.

Commenting on the state of primary health care, he noted that it was not being fully implemented worldwide. One of the main reasons for this was the weak participation of some countries, especially the wealthy ones.

The Palestinian children have relinquished their right to a happy childhood because of fighters and martyrs... the breaking of limbs and murder will only increase their attachment to their land and soil," he pointed out.

All countries share a common responsibility to ensure primary health care, both within their countries and abroad, for diseases and epidemics do not need a visa to enter a country."



Slaughterhouse project

The minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohamed Al Rifai recently inspected the slaughterhouse project at Jahra and discussed with officials at the site reasons of delay in project. Rifai also visited the vegetables market project at Farwaniya Governorate. He was accompanied by acting director of municipality Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali and senior officials of the municipality.

The minister discussed schemes of the slaughterhouse projects with director of constructions department of the municipality and reprimanded the contractor carrying out the project for the delay. He added that only 13 per cent of the project is done and commented that he will withdraw the project from the contractor if he fails to finish it in the proper time.

From the courts

Five years RI, fine for liquor smuggler

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man identified as M.A. to 5 years imprisonment with hard labour and fined him KD2,000 for smuggling liquor from Iraq into Kuwait. The court also fined his companion KD300 and ordered his deportation from Kuwait for illegally leaving and entering Kuwait. The court was told that a Kuwaiti border guard patrol saw a car crossing the border from Iraq into Kuwait. It called for assistance and the car was seized just before it could return back to Iraq. A Kuwaiti citizen and an expatriate were caught in the car along with 360 bottles of whisky, a sub-machine gun and 30 bullets. During interrogations, the Kuwaiti said that it was he who tried to smuggle the liquor for his own personal use and that his companion was not at all involved.

THE Criminal Court sentenced two men to seven years imprisonment each with hard labour and ordered their deportation from Kuwait, but acquitted a third man tried in the same case. The court was told that the first two defendants were accused of selling fake US Dollar notes with the knowledge that the notes were forged. The second defendant said that he got the forged dollars from his brother, the third defendant. The two defendants were arrested through a police informer who was sent to buy some of the dollars from the two defendants. They confessed the charges and said that they got it from the brother of the second who brought them from outside Kuwait. But the court found no evidence that the third defendant was involved in the charges. For that, the court acquitted him, but sentenced the first two to 7 years imprisonment with hard labour and ordered their deportation from Kuwait.

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to 5 years imprisonment with hard labour and ordered his deportation for raping a teenage girl. The court also sentenced another to three months imprisonment for assisting the first in

his crime. The court was told that the main defendant accompanied the teenage girl in his car, reached the second defendant home and asked him for the key. The second defendant gave him the key, knowing he was going to rape the girl. The first defendant claimed before the court that he accompanied the girl with her consent. The court however, changed the charges on the second accused from assisting the first to using his house for vulgar acts.

THE Traffic court acquitted a driver of knocking down a man who crossed the street under a pedestrian flyover instead of using the flyover. The court's sentence was later upheld by the Appeal Court who cited the victim for being responsible. The court refused to order the insurance company to pay blood money to relatives of the victim.

The court heard that the victim tried to cross the Istiklal street from a place under the pedestrian fence that separates the two directions of the road. The driver was driving his car at 10 pm at a speed of 80 to 90 km/h and was surprised by the victim at a distance of only three metres. He tried to stop his car but caught totally unaware, the driver was unable to take any evasive action.

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He denied that the local underground water is being depleted clarifying that current sources were giving about 100 million gallon per day.

He added that the ministry is planning to expand the water supply network in the country, adding that the pertinent plan aims surmounting of the water tanks phenomenon in the country.

On the other hand, the Dean of Faculty of Science Dr Adnan Al Aqeel, has said that faculty built a lab for animal cells culture according to latest methods and specifications. The lab will be used in research on cancer, and genetic engineering. The lab will follow the biology department. He added that another lab for plant cells culture will also be built in the faculty. University has agreed to offer a new major of marine biology in the beginning of present academic year. The faculty is also studying to establish other majors like applied chemistry and partial biology. He added that reports of visiting professors showed that faculty can offer Ph.D. programmes in maths, physics and chemistry. He added that these programmes are expected to be offered very soon after putting special charters and restrictions by the Faculty of Higher Studies.

Dr Aqeel pointed out that the faculty has built two new buildings to be added to its buildings this year the first is the classrooms project which consists of 26 classrooms with a capacity of 45 to 100 students each. The second project was the addition of a floor to the administration building of the faculty that consists of 205 offices and 8 meeting halls. These buildings increased the total capacity of the faculty to 3,500 students beside 400 students in higher studies programmes, he said.

Dr Nashmi pointed out that graduates of the faculty do not face serious problems. Suffering of these graduates is a natural question for graduates of theoretical faculties. He added that local media enlarged the suffering and problems of graduates of the faculty. He added that many ministries and government departments are studying to solve these

problems and lift the suffering of graduates of the faculty. Results of this question will be announced shortly. He added that headmasters of schools praised teachers who graduated from the faculty.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Sheikh Saad to visit Britain soon

Kuwait-UK relations deep-rooted: envoy

KUWAIT, May 12. (Kuna) British Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Weston today hailed the expected visit of His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah to Britain.

In an interview with a local daily, Weston said that his country is looking forward to the visit, (whose date has not been set yet) to Britain as soon as Sheikh Saad concludes his obligations.

Kuwait-British relations are deep-

rooted in the official or private sector, the diplomat told the paper.

Official visits are exchanged between the two countries continuously, Weston said, adding that Kuwaiti Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Al Sabah last month visited London and that British Minister of Energy is expected to arrive here this week.

Britain wishes that its relations with Iraq and other countries in the region to be good, adding that the steps implemented by Britain after the beheading of British

spy Bazoft were the least that could be done amid pressures faced by the government to severe relations with Baghdad.

Tension

Any country in the Middle East that possesses strategic weapons with a destructive method will definitely increase tension and threaten peace in the region, the ambassador stressed.

Asked about the British viewpoint on

Israel's possession of chemical weapons, he said that his country opposes the spread of chemical weapons and calls on all countries in the Middle East to boycott and oppose this expansion.

In conclusion, Weston said that Britain backs the changes that occurred in the policy of the Palestine Liberation Organisation such as its acceptance of the UN Security Council Resolution 242 adding that contacts are under way between officials of the two sides to arrive at common stand.

Lebanon assistance continues

BEIRUT, May 12. (Kuna) A senior Kuwaiti official today emphasised that assistance offered by his country to Lebanon is not limited to any particular area and indicated that the assistance has been uninterrupted for the past three years.

Sheikh Mubarak Saud Al Sabah, representative of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's office who is supervising Kuwaiti aid to Lebanon, assured in statements published today by Al Liwa newspaper that Kuwaiti relief is being distributed through the Lebanese government's higher relief commission.

Though Kuwait is not involved in direct distribution of assistance, which he described as purely an internal Lebanese affair, the official expressed the wish that distribution should be fair and include all people and parts of Lebanon.

Sheikh Mubarak expressed Kuwait's readiness to finance development and reconstruction projects in Lebanon, but noted that efforts to rebuild the country's infrastructure, destroyed by 13 years of factional war, require prevalence of peace and stability.

He hoped Lebanon would soon reach peace and open a way for Arab assistance to rebuild the country.

Recouping previous lack of co-ordination and misconception in distribution of Kuwaiti relief aid to Lebanon, the official said a decision has been taken only to deliver assistance to the governmental higher relief commission which, with the help of local organisations and committees, will distribute it to those in need.

Swedish envoy

KUWAIT, May 12. (Kuna) Public Works Minister Abdel Rahman Al Houti today received Sweden's Ambassador to Kuwait Ingolf Kiesow.

The two officials discussed issues of mutual interest and means of boosting bilateral relations.



Tents up

Several candidates for the elections of the National Council in remote areas began discussions to appoint a date for the sub-elections to reduce the number of candidates in each area. The sub-elections might be held in the open air (tents) or at a school. A number of candidates began their campaign to attract supporters by installing tents and boards at different roads. The Interior Ministry and Municipality have provided facilities to candidates to install their tents. The candidates now number 561 citizens after the withdrawal of six candidates last Thursday. The elections department has begun allocating sites to about 120 election committees.

Temporary residence permits being granted

Transfers facilitated

THE residence law for foreigners permits the transfer of the visit visa to a temporary residence permit for a maximum period of one year; in some cases at the discretion of the Interior Ministry.

Transfers

He further said that expatriate women who are sponsored by their fathers can transfer their residence permits to the sponsor ship of their husbands after marriage — irrespective of the salary of their husbands. However, he said that those expatriates who wish to bring their wives to Kuwait would need to draw a salary of KD450 if they are employed in the public sector and KD650 if they are with the private sector.

Meanwhile, the assistant undersecretary of Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Affairs Mohammed Shaban Al Thamer said that ministry issued 100,000 work permits during the first quarter of this year at the five governorates. He added that 18,434 of these permits were entry permits for work; 16,301 permits of employment for the first time; 49,366 renewed permits and 1,538 transferred permits. He added that ministry cancelled and transferred 4,741 cases and cancelled 9,393 permits.

Municipal drivers will not be made redundant

THE director of transportation and maintenance department at Kuwait Municipality Abdul Razzak Al Qudabi has denied any intention to dismiss drivers working in the municipality due to dependence on rented cars. The municipality needs these drivers to drive and run the 1,183 vehicles and machines at municipality, the official said and added that using rented cars and vehicles reduced costs and efforts of repairing and maintaining vehicles.

Renting small cars saves money because costs of running a car owned by municipality reach KD300 to 350 a month including 200 dinars as payment of driver.

Qudabi said that the municipality contracted with several companies to rent 239 cars beside 379 vehicles rented to follow up the cleanliness works and added that there are 500 technicians and mechanics working in the department beside about 1,000 drivers.

He commented that the Kuwait Public Transportation Company (KPTC) will offer the transportation and maintenance services for vehicles and cars of municipality.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES**Thought for today**

NO race can prosper till it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem — Booker T. Washington.

Africa awakens Leaders cave in to demands

ABIDJAN, (Reuter): The foreign minister of Benin, first African country of the decade to adopt multi-party politics, made an unprecedented appearance on Ivory Coast television last week to boast his best wishes on the latest to do so.

"I am sure Ivory Coast, in its wisdom will find answers to the problems it faces, for the good of Ivory Coast and the sub-region," said Foreign Minister Theophile Nata.

A day earlier Nata's remarks might not have been publicised at all. Multi-party politics was, until then an all but taboo subject in Ivory Coast's tightly controlled media.

But that changed overnight when Ivory Coast's ruling Democratic Party of Ivory Coast (PDCI-RDA) and its 84-year-old President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, in office since independence in 1960, endorsed multi-party politics.

Endangered

Houphouet-Boigny was the latest in a growing list of leaders who, caving in to demands for political pluralism, have made Africa's traditional strongmen and their one-party systems look as endangered as the continent's elephants.

Benin's President Mobutu Sese Seko, faced with growing opposition to his 25-year single-party authoritarian rule, announced last month that he would authorise three parties to contest elections in 1991.

Gabon's President Omar Bongo, in power for 23 years as head of a single-party state, has agreed to institute multi-party democracy and faces a presidential election in three years.

Benin's military President Mathieu Kerekou, unable to pay government salaries for months, gave up most of his powers to a new civilian government earlier this year and will have to stand for election next year.

Houphouet-Boigny, who always maintained one party — his own — was sufficient, faces the prospect of as many as a dozen parties vying for legal status.

But analysts say it is one thing to end single-party governance along Western lines.

"I don't think the democratic tradition of Mobutu is all that believable," said one Western diplomat. "... and I don't think the parties in Ivory Coast have any illusion either."

Africa is not a place where democratic roots run deep.

Parties

African leaders who have agreed to additional parties still wield enormous power. Parties springing up to challenge them are underfunded, poorly organised, lack access to state-controlled media and may not have a broad power base.

"We have to be careful that (Ivory Coast's ruling party) the PDCI does not become even more powerful in the next elections," said Bernard Zadi, an author and professor who heads one of the country's new opposition parties.

The continent is littered with examples of countries which have tried democracy and have failed or created a pale image of what would pass for democracy in the West.

Senegal has had multi-party politics since independence in 1960 but only one party, the socialists, headed first by Leopold Senghor and now by Abdou Diouf, has ever ruled.

The official daily *Le Soleil* in a recent editorial said Senegalese democracy "has gone past the infancy stage and even mid-life crisis ... and to assert Benin and Gabon have gone beyond Senegal ... is foolish."

But some Senegalese think their country is being left behind.

"Newcomers to democracy such as Benin and Gabon can boast more significant progress and are outshining Senegal," said a satirical newspaper, *Le Cafard Libre*.

"Democracy implies a possibility of political changeover through fair elections," said the independent *Sud-Hebdo*. "A multi-party system on its own cannot suffice."

Nigeria

Nigeria, the most populous black African state with 110 million people, has swung wildly back and forth between military and civilian rule for its three decades of independence.

Military President Ibrahim Babangida has promised a reform to civilian democratic rule within the next two years, but he was nearly toppled by a rival military faction late last month.

Political analysts think the April 22 coup attempt puts even more pressure on Babangida to stick to his timetable or even speed it up. But also exacerbated age-old divisions between the Muslim-dominated north and Christians in the south, between civilians and military and among various powerful tribes, which make it all that much harder for democracy to work.

Many political analysts in the region think it is unfair to compare what is happening in Africa, much of which gained its independence only 30 years ago, with the collapse of totalitarian regimes in Eastern Europe or even Asia.

"It is not a racist comment, but in the traditional African mentality there cannot be two chiefs," one diplomat said, explaining why Western traditions of opposition and protest may be frowned upon in Africa.

Still, the momentum for change has begun, fired partly by discontent bred by the continent's debt-burdened and stagnant economies, and by the rising educational level of Africans, particularly in wealthier countries such as Ivory Coast and Gabon.

"There are a lot of people, especially in the cities, who read overseas newspapers and listen to the radio," a diplomat said. "You cannot hide from them what is going on."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1503 — Spanish forces defeat French army and enter Naples, Italy.

1619 — Execution of Johann van Oldenbarneveldt for treason leaves Maurice Prince of Orange supreme in Holland.

1779 — France abandons Goree, West Africa, to Britain.

1809 — French army under Napoleon Bonaparte takes Vienna.

1871 — Law of guarantees in Italy declares Pope's person inviolable and allows him possession of the Vatican.

1888 — Serfdom is abolished in Brazil.

1962 — Gunman tries to assassinate Indonesia's president Sukarno, but Sukarno escapes injury.

1968 — Peace negotiations officially open in Paris between United States and North Vietnam.

1969 — More than 100 people are reported killed in race riots in Malaysian city of Kuala Lumpur.

1970 — Israel attacks Lebanon to try wiping out guerrilla bases.

1973 — Nineteen nations begin talks in Vienna aimed at cutting number of troops in Europe.

1975 — US Marines, warships and planes are placed on alert in Western Pacific after seizure of US merchant ship Mayaguez by Cambodians.

1975 — US Marines, warships and planes are placed on alert in Western Pacific after seizure of US merchant ship Mayaguez by Cambodians.

1988 — Riot police storm sacred Temple Mount complex in occupied Jerusalem and fire rubber bullets at Muslim worshippers.

Warm-up in US-New Zealand ties

Groundwork laid for co-operation

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, (WNL): "We've always had good relations. We share almost everything in common," said Mike Moore, New Zealand's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He had just returned home from a recent visit to the United States, where he met with Secretary of State James Baker.

The meeting signalled an improvement in US-New Zealand relations as both countries laid the groundwork to co-operate in areas of common interest: the war on drugs, the progressive removal of international trade barriers and environmental issues such as the banning of driftnet fishing.

Although Moore had met with US Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter and Trade Representative Carla Hills on previous occasions, the meeting with Secretary Baker was the first formal government-to-government meeting since 1984. In that year the Labour government of former Prime Minister David Lange banned all nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed vessels from New Zealand's ports.

The US retaliated by suspending defence, military and intelligence sharing agreements between the two countries, which led to the de facto breakup of the 33-year-old Anzus Pact, signed by Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Under that security pact, any one of the three members under threat could turn to the other two for support. New Zealand's ban raised the eyebrows of other traditional allies, such as Great Britain and France, and may have accounted for Britain's lack of support for New Zealand after French security agents sank the "Rainbow Warrior," a vessel of the environmental movement Greenpeace, in Auckland Harbour in July 1985.

New Zealand's policy was portrayed by some as an anti-American policy — which it is not! It is anti-nuclear and not anti-American," says the 41-year-old minister, who is probably one of the Labour Party's most popular leaders.

After more than a half-dozen trips to the states, Moore prefers to stress the two countries' common interests. One example of the new understanding between the two nations is a recent United Nations vote, when New Zealand abstained from condemning the US intervention in Panama.

Assistance

Other areas where the US and New Zealand now "agree" are in providing assistance to the new democracies of Eastern Europe, supporting measures to assist in the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa, working toward global trade liberalisation through proposed extensions of the 1947 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and co-operating with the Asian Pacific Economic Conference.

"We want to demonstrate that we are not an isolationist country, but rather are moved by the great concerns of the world. We want to pay our fair share in international events," Moore adds. He himself is well known at home for energetically rubbing shoulders with leaders from Japan, Australia, Hungary and the US.

New Zealand, as a member of the British Commonwealth, has demonstrated that concern in the past by providing support to the United Nations' peacekeeping forces in Cyprus, Malaysia, Iraq, Iran, the Sinai and Namibia. The country is training personnel to clear mines in Afghanistan and might eventually assist Cambodia. "There aren't many nations with as many people on the ground as New Zealand," says Moore.

Australia has a similar policy toward Melanesia, which consists in part of Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu (formerly new Hebrides), Tuvalu (formerly Ellice Islands) and Kiribati (formerly Gilbert Islands).

The tie-in with US interests in the South Pacific is on the driftnet fishing issue — a kind of strip-mining



Mike Moore stresses common goal. (WNL)

of the ocean using nets that are up to 48 kilometres (30 miles) long and hang 15 metres (50 feet) down. The technique has come to be known as the wall of death. New Zealand is taking a leading role as an environmental nation by defending long-term regional interests at the risk of enlarging its economically powerful Asian neighbours: Japan, Taiwan and South Korea, all of whom practice driftnet fishing.

"On our own, we are perhaps not strong enough to defeat driftnet fishing, but by bringing our influence to bear with the US and Australia to co-sponsor a resolution in the United Nations calling for a complete ban of their use on high seas, we hope to stop this wall of death," Moore says. New Zealand has already banned the use of such nets in its waters and denies access to driftnet-equipped vessels to its ports and resupply ships.

Drugs

In his meetings in the US Moore was struck by the importance of the drug issue. "It's an area where we can get on with the United States and one that requires a multilateral solution," he says. "If President Bush says it's the number one domestic problem, he means it. New Zealand is a small market, but if it's big enough for Pepperware (a brand of plastic kitchenware) and Kentucky Fried Chicken, maybe it will be big enough for the drug industry if they are obliged to start to look for softer places to sell drugs." Moore has promised to send specialists to Thailand, a major route for heroin produced in Burma and Laos, and to convene an ad hoc committee to find ways to co-operate with the US on the war on drugs.

EARTH DAY WAS A GREAT EVENT...



WAGNER STYLING FOR THE TIMES

QUOTE ME

ARAB TIMES, SUNDAY, MAY 13, 1990

Tonga

Armed agitation not discounted

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga, (Reuters): "Presently we are going through some sort of political tension but there is no danger of an armed revolution. Do not be afraid."

Any casual visitor to Tonga would be amazed that its Roman Catholic leader Bishop P'Atelisio, Finau could even contemplate armed revolution in the sleepy Pacific nation.

But he wrote these words in the Catholic monthly Taumau'a Lelei after an extraordinary month in which the police minister denied he was plotting a coup and Tonga's ageing monarch accused the bishop of being a Marxist.

Tanks

Tongans stress that tanks are not about to rumble through the streets of Nuku'alofa, capital of the South Pacific's last kingdom. They also avoid comparisons with Nepal, where King Birendra was forced to surrender his absolute power last month after bloody pro-democracy riots.

But some Tongans are beginning to question the power wielded by 165 kg (365 pounds) king Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, his ministers and the nobility, power which the nation of 95,000 accepted without question only a few years ago.

"We're not saying we don't want a king," Finau told Reuters. "I'm sure people are very proud of their king, but with what kind of power."

Voters gave reformers a clean sweep in parliamentary elections last February, only a week after the king ruled out full-blooded democracy for Tonga. "At present Tonga is very stable but a move for change...would result in a coup d'etat," the 71-year-old monarch told the news magazine Matangi Tonga.

Following the elections a wave of increasingly bizarre rumours swept the kingdom.

Rumours

Police Minister 'Akau'ola went on national radio in April to deny rumours that the police department planned to overthrow the monarchy in a coup financed from abroad. Four New Zealanders accused of spreading the rumours, all linked to a fundamentalist Christian group, were later expelled.

A few days later the king, who has ruled Tonga for 25 years, accused Finau and leading People's Representative Akilisi Pohiva of being Marxists. Both vigorously denied the charge.

Finau said Tonga could not resist the democratic wave which had swept Eastern Europe and countries such as the Philippines and South Africa. "It's a world movement...it's coming to Tonga because Tonga is part of the world."

Change meant constitutional reform. The Tongan constitution was a tremendous leap forward 115 years ago but not today. It's holding things up," he said.

Reformers have little power in Parliament. Under the 1875 constitution, nobles and ministers appointed by the king outnumber elected People's representatives two to one.

But an independent press has emerged in recent years to play a significant role in making Tongans question authority for the first time, diplomats say. The media, along with the nine People's Representatives, have pressed the government to answer allegations of official corruption.

Passport

Finau said Tongans were particularly concerned about sales of passports to wealthy Chinese and what happened to the millions of dollars in proceeds. The king and 'Akau'ola have both commented on the issue recently after years of silence, but Finau says many questions remain.

Pohiva, who has taken the police minister to court over the passport issue, says government must become more accountable.

"We cannot afford to let the king and his ministers continue on and on pleasing themselves on what government should do," he said. "People should be allowed to be involved."

Pohiva accused two ministers, whom he refuses to name, of campaigning to have him barred from Parliament. He is currently fighting a lawsuit accusing him of trying to buy votes.

But the government is not entirely unsympathetic. Land Minister Ma'afu Tupou said Tonga had to move forward and some of Pohiva's aims were good.

But he urged caution: "Maybe some ideas of the people's representatives are too (much) for the time being. We'll have to go slowly."

Pohiva stressed his commitment to peaceful change. But he added: "If there's no other alternative, people may revert to violence. This can only happen if all peaceful approaches fail."

According to Finau, Tonga's problems have grown from a breakdown of the traditional political and cultural system where noble looked after the people.

"The emphasis is no longer people, the emphasis is money. That father figure is no longer there," he said.

Letters to the editor

India Festival

SIR: The curtain has finally fallen on the India Festival. Each programme has been applauded, the reactions varying from "excellent" to "could be better". However, we would like to pay a special tribute to all those behind the scenes, people whom we didn't see but whose hard work and purpose made what we saw, possible. Right from the controversial breed of the "organizer" to the "curtain-man", hats off to all of you out there, who brought to us the brilliance and sheer entertainment of each programme.

Also, a sincere thank you to all family members, who stood by in silent support of the participants, not to forget the patient wives who co-operated with her busy husband or the chauffeuring husbands who drove their

wives tirelessly through the entire gamut of rehearsals.

However small the task performed, we thank you for it, we thank you for nine unforgettable days, when the spirit of India touched frenzied proportions. Keep it up!

Ashima Khosla & Sangeeta Jammal, Safat.

Well done

SIR: Sister Mia Ponzo is doing a very good work by having written befitting replies whenever misleading items appear in the press about Islam. Any Muslim who has reasonable knowledge about Islam can serve the society especially, to the Muslim women. I hope she will do what has to be done in this regard.

S. Mohammed, Fahaheel.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Hussein hopes a united front

Saddam bid for Lebanon peace

MANAMA, May 12, (Agencies): Jordan's King Hussein stressed in an interview published today that the Arabs must emerge as a united front at the proposed Arab summit conference to confront Israel as well as the changing international scene.

"It is the splits within the Arab world, the absence of necessary co-operation and full co-operation among us, that are encouraging Israel toward aggression and expansion," said Hussein in the interview published in Bahrain's Arabic-language daily *Akhbar Al Khaleej*.

"The emergency Arab summit that will be convened in Baghdad is required to adopt stands that will make Israel realise the doors are not open for its adventures," Hussein said.

Rabin told soldiers

'Break limbs'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 12, (Reuters): A lawyer defending an Israeli army colonel said in court yesterday that former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin had told soldiers to break the arms and legs of Palestinian protesters and "break the hand that threw the stone."

But Major-General Amram Mizrahi, former commander in the occupied West Bank, denied hearing such statements from Rabin, which the defence supported with a deposition from an unnamed witness.

Colonel Yehuda Meir is accused of ordering troops to smash the limbs of bound Arabs detained in the West Bank in January 1988, the second month of a Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule that is now 29 months old.

Mizrahi, who began testifying on Thursday, has already told the military court that at the time soldiers were allowed to club protesters resisting arrest but told the beating must stop when the suspect was in custody.

Defence lawyer Avron Goldenberg read from a deposition from a witness identified only as "MR."

"A Golani (an Israeli infantry brigade) soldier asked Rabin what to do with someone who threw a stone. Rabin answered him, 'break his arm or leg, not the head or another place, and break the hand that threw the stone,'" Goldenberg said.

Another time, the deposition said, Rabin told officers serving in Nablus: "You do the work — break arms and legs. Let me worry about the media."

Mizrahi said he recalled no such statements made by Rabin when he escorted him on visits to soldiers in the field.

"In my hearing, I never heard Rabin say anything like that in any forum," Mizrahi said.

Prosecution witnesses have told the court that in January 1988 four officers and about 40 men raided the West Bank village of Huwara, dragged 12 villagers from their homes and took them to a nearby orchard.

An army truck raced to engine to drown the screams, they bound the Arab hand and foot, stuffed rags in their mouths, and systematically broke the arms and legs of all but one, left with unbroken legs to fetch help from the village, witnesses said.



Li (right) invites Mubarak into the meeting room for their talks. (Reuters wirephoto)

Li criticises settlements

Mubarak in China

BEIJING, May 12, (UPI): Chinese Premier Li Peng, at a meeting with visiting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, said today that Israel's settlement policy has "provoked instability in the Middle East."

Li's comments echo those of President Yang Shangkun, who told Mubarak yesterday on the first day of a three-day visit that Israel is obstructing peace in the region.

"Recently, the Israeli government settled many Jews in the West Bank. This phenomenon has provoked a strong reaction and instability in the Middle East," Li told Mubarak in the Great Hall of the People, where Chinese leaders meet.

"The Chinese government firmly opposes Israel's settlement of Jews because it violates international rules and delays the progress of peace in the Middle East," Li said.

During the meeting, which was broadcast on state television, Li reaffirmed China's support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

China, a major arms supplier to Egypt, has maintained political solidarity with the Palestinians and the Arab states, even while quietly pursuing unofficial trade and economic ties with Israel.

The official told Reuters in an interview that Libya had trained the core of the Liberian rebel force, including leader Charles Taylor, before it launched an invasion in December.

The rebels have pushed the forces of President Samuel Doe out of much of north-

Mubarak also met with Communist Party head Jiang Zemin, who criticised "some people in the West" today for interfering in other countries' internal affairs.

At a meeting with Mubarak in Zhongnanhai, the vast housing compound for top Chinese leaders, Jiang criticised unidentified Westerners for maintaining that the rapid growth of science and technology has made the term "non-interference in each other's internal affairs" obsolete.

"We cannot agree with this," Jiang said, according to a report carried by the official Xinhua news agency.

The Communist Party leader told Mubarak "the question of what system a country should take is decided by its historical development and its people, and allows no external interference," the report said.

Jiang did not elaborate but was presumably defending China for resisting the wave of political liberalisations that has resulted in the successive fall of hardline communist regimes in East Europe and growing unrest in the Soviet Union.

"Under the present world situation, the strengthening of unity and co-operation between Third World countries is all the more necessary," Jiang said.

Libya renewing intervention in African strife: US

WASHINGTON, May 12, (Reuters): Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi has resumed efforts to destabilise parts of black Africa, training and financing rebels in Liberia and renewing his intervention in Chad, a senior US State Department official said.

The official told Reuters in an interview that Libya had trained the core of the Liberian rebel force, including leader Charles Taylor, before it launched an invasion in December.

The rebels have pushed the forces of President Samuel Doe out of much of north-

Beirut justice in backlog

Violence overwhelms attempts to punish criminals

BEIRUT, May 12, (AP): Sometimes judges take pity on prisoners whose incarceration makes them unable to flee Beirut's daily shelling, and let them go on minimum bail. At other times, the shelling does that for them, blowing holes in prison walls that allow the inmates to escape.

During 15 years of civil war, the criminal justice system has tried to keep functioning. But the violence can overwhelm its attempts.

"I switched on the TV one night and saw gunmen sniping from my office at the Palace of Justice," said one judge who like the rest spoke on condition of anonymity. "We obviously cannot meet there."

The intra-Christian fighting that has tormented Beirut for the last 101 days has trapped about 415 prisoners in a belt of

some of the worst fighting.

The showdown between troops of rebel Gen. Michel Aoun and militiamen of warlord Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces — the worst among Christians in the civil war — has killed almost 1,000 people and wounded more than 2,500 since it erupted Jan. 30.

A lawyer who fled the fighting in the Christian enclave to predominantly Muslim West Beirut said the judiciary authorities have not been able to meet to consider dozens of cases of detainees who have been booked pending interrogation.

"They were arrested and jailed and now their fate depends on the situation," said the lawyer.

The Palace of Justice where the meetings normally take place lies on the confronta-

tion line separating Geagea's areas of influence from Aoun-held terrain. It is under constant sniper fire and shelling.

"We have been trying to form a committee to meet anywhere in order to take a decision to release the prisoners on bail pending a trial when security conditions permit," the judge said.

The lawyer said some colleagues paid lightning visits to the Palace of Justice to put the files in safe hiding or take them to safer areas, he said. "But it is not possible to operate normally from there."

The judge said the jails lie in the most-targeted areas in Roumieh, Baabda and Fureij Al Shabbak, all held by Aoun.

Roumieh is the biggest Aoun's main howitzer batteries are deployed around the prison in the wooded valley which protects

them against Geagea's fire.

"The prisons are so crowded and in such dangerous areas that whenever we tend to meet we try to release most of the detainees who have committed minor offences on bail set at a minimal amount," said the judge.

"We also have no wards to treat drug addicts," she added. "So again we tend to set them free on bail because if we place them in prison, they'll be more corrupted by other prisoners."

Few jails have bomb shelters and prisoner control is all but non-existent during the shelling because the guards are generally the first to flee the buildings.

Occasionally the shells damage the buildings, allowing prisoners to escape.

Zaher asks rebels to unite

ROME, May 12, (AP): The exiled king of Afghanistan today appealed to Muslim rebel groups fighting the Marxist Afghan government to put aside their differences to push for elections.

King Zaher Shah's appeal came a few days after Muslim rebels declared they would reject any US-Soviet deal to end their 12-year-old fight to oust Kabul's communist-style government.

Talks about how to end the Afghan civil war are expected to be high on the agenda later this month when US President George Bush meets with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Washington.

Western diplomats and Afghan experts in Pakistan have said one possible solution could be an election run by the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference, or by a "neutral" body chosen by both organisations.

The ex-king made his appeal in a written statement issued in Rome, where he has lived in exile since 1973, when his cousin, Mohammad Daoud, staged a coup with the help of Afghanistan's then-fledgling communists.

Addressing his appeal to the fragmented Muslim rebel groups, Zaher Shah said they "should not now lay claim to political leadership without preparing the opportunity of referring it to the vote of the Afghan people, which is the fundamental criterion for obtaining political leadership."

The loose coalition of rebel groups is deeply divided. Adding to the political difficulties is Afghan President Najibullah's refusal to step down before any elections — a pre-condition set by even the most moderate rebel groups, whose headquarters are in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar.

In his appeal the monarch said he has "no personal consideration or claim to any special privilege whatsoever. My sole objective is the attainment of national unity and cohesion among the various sides of Afghan society and the establishment of peace in the country."

Asked just what kind of measures the king had in mind, his spokesman and brother-in-law, Gen Abdul Wali, declined to elaborate. He also declined to comment on prospects that might develop from the US-Soviet talks in Washington.

Rebels cut road

NAIROBI, Kenya, May 12, (AP): Sudanese rebels said today they had cut the only road between two government-held towns in the south and threatened to shoot down aircraft flying to a besieged garrison.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army rebels said they cut the road between Yei and Juba, capital of Equatoria province, after an attack Thursday on a military convoy. Ninety-two troops were killed.

In a clandestine radio broadcast, the rebels said "any attempt to reinforce troops in Yei by air will be met by our gunners now under maximum alert."

The broadcast was monitored in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. However, it was not possible to independently verify the rebel claim.

Yei, which rebels say is under siege, is about 150 kms (93 miles) southwest of Juba and near Zaire's border.

The rebels control most of the countryside in southern Sudan and regularly bombard Juba and Yei with mortar and artillery.

The SPLA took up arms in 1983 to press for increased autonomy for Christian and animist southerners. Traditionally, the government in Sudan is dominated by Muslim northerners.

Peace march

Palestinian and Jewish peace activists link hands May 12 in front of the closed Bethlehem University as they demonstrate for the reopening of Palestinian

universities. All universities in the West Bank have been closed by the Israeli authorities for the last 30 months. (Reuters wirephoto)

Iranian call for freeing hostages

NICOSIA, May 12, (AP): A top Iranian official called for the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon and said Washington could show goodwill by releasing billions of dollars in Iranian assets, the Tehran Times reported Saturday.

The diplomat, who asked not to be named, said representatives of Lebanon's Christian rivals ahead of an emergency Arab summit in Baghdad in late May, an Iranian diplomat said gone to Baghdad for mediation talks.

The diplomat said Saddam's efforts were motivated by attempts by some Arab leaders to put the Lebanon crisis on the agenda of New York.

Irqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz left for Saudi Arabia today to invite King Fahd to an Arab summit in Baghdad.

The official Iraqi News Agency said Aziz would deliver a letter to the King about the meeting. It did not elaborate, but an Arab diplomat told Reuters the letter contained an official invitation from President Saddam.

Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran said today the United States continues its "hostile and negative" attitude towards Iran, there can be no possibility of an improvement in relations.

Badran said the US was to blame for the recent release of two American captives was due to his country's efforts.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Khamenei, director-general of Iran's Foreign Ministry, as saying the recent release of two American captives was due to his country's efforts.

The diplomat pointed to suggestions by some people that Israel is "speeding up ... a design to make it virtually impossible for Christians to function anywhere in the land." (AP) .

Islamic conference: The Islamic Da'awa (call) organisation concluded three days of deliberations in Khartoum last night by adopting a number of resolutions and recommendations designed to boost the activities of the organisation in Africa in the coming three years.

The final sitting of the board of trustees of the organisation approved the bylaws which give it diplomatic immunity and exempts it from taxes and customs levied on other organisations. (Kuna)

Peace march postponed: The Arab-American organisers of a peace march from Amman to the occupied West Bank border said Saturday they had postponed it six months to allow more celebrities to take part.

A spokesman of the Jordan branch of the Washington-based American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) said the march would be held on November 29 instead of June 1.

He said opposition to the peace march by militant

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Muslim fundamentalists had played no part in the decision.

The local steering committee of the ADC took the decision ... because many of the celebrities he invited said they would join us but insisted they needed more time to organise their schedules," he told Reuters.

German relief ship diverted: A West German ship carrying about 1,500 tonnes of food to famine victims in northern Ethiopia has had to divert to Port Sudan after being told it was dangerous to use the rebel-held port of Massawa.

The rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said on Saturday the Ethiopian government had threatened to bomb the ship, a Danish vessel chartered by the charity Cap Anamur, if it docked at Massawa as planned.

Cap Anamur, West German charity, disclosed later that the ship had arrived in Port Sudan.

A government spokesman in Bonn said West Germany and other West European countries asked Ethiopia to allow the ship to go to Massawa but got no reply. (Reuters)

Czech change of heart: A ranking Palestinian diplomat has expressed the Palestinian leadership's profound concern at Czechoslovakia's change of heart regarding the 1975 UN resolution which equates Zionism with racism.

This came in a meeting between Czechoslovakia's President Vaclav Havel and Palestinian ambassador in Prague Samih Abdal Farrah (Abu Hisham) last night.

President Havel had criticised the UN resolution which was adopted by absolute majority during the term of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim as UN Secretary General. (Kuna)

Israel ill-prepared

Influx of brain power

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 12, (AP): Vladimir Kislik, a nuclear physicist who worked in the Soviet atomic weapons programme, has not been able to find work in his field since arriving in Israel last year.

But Kislik is lucky to have work at all, after finding a job analysing coal ashes for a high-tech firm studying the extraction of precious metals from low-grade ores.

Nearly one in four of the new immigrants to Israel is a highly educated professional, and Israel is having trouble absorbing the influx of brain power.

"Israel cannot provide employment for the thousands of scientists who will immigrate in the next two years," said Yitzhak Perez, a top immigration official.

Added Amos Rubin, economic adviser to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir: "If we absorb even one in 10 (professionals) successfully, we know we are on the right track."

The Jewish agency, an immigrant assistance group, said there are 23,000 highly skilled professionals in each group of 100,000 new arrivals.

The figure includes 11,000 engineers, 2,500 doctors and dentists, 2,000 scientists and about 7,000 other professionals including computer specialists and nurses.

The 150,000 Soviet Jews expected to arrive this year would include 35,000 professionals. No figures were available on how the 10,000 professionals who arrived in the past six months have fared.

But employment opportunities in Israel are limited.

Universities and government laboratories can only take a limited number of engineers and researchers

EVENTS

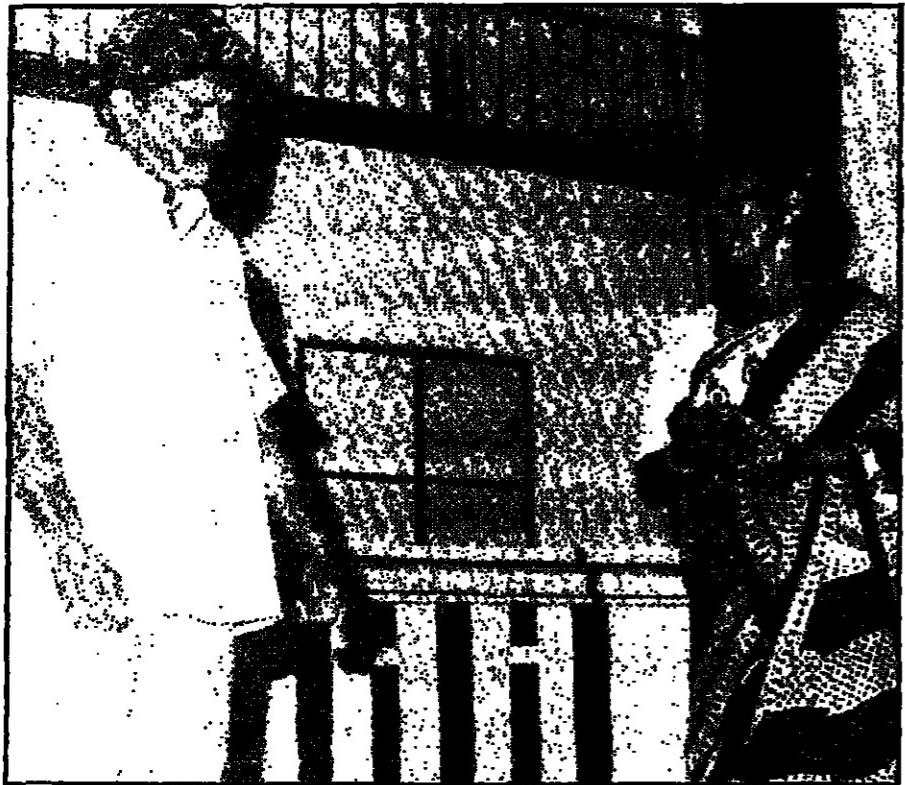
ARAB TIMES, SUNDAY, MAY 13, 1990

Roseforns performs in Kuwait

By Peter D'Souza
Arab Times staff

ROSEFURNS, the popular Goan dramatist who arrived in Kuwait on Wednesday, staged the first show of his drama *Xinx (Shards of Glass)* on Thursday at the Granada Cinema sans the usual side show of songs nor a heart to cry.

In the drama *Xinx*, Lawrence (Roseforns) loves his brother Savio (Espírito) so much that he and his wife Antonetta (Clara) sell their infant son for a few thousands rupees without regrets.



Lawrence (Roseforns) and his wife Antonetta (Clara) discuss family problems. (Photos by Ahmad Emad)

Lawrence gives the money he gets to Savio for his needs. Savio goes to Bombay, marries a rich girl Selma (Francisca), becomes rich and quarrels with his brother.

A

time passes by, Selma elopes with another boy called Leslie (Mario) and Savio becomes pauper again while Lawrence becomes a rich man. Savio comes back to Lawrence to ask for forgiveness and shelter. Lawrence forgives him, plus gives him money and asks him to go away saying: "Some people are like shards of glass. The closer they are, more dan-

gerous they become."

Roseforns made every effort to make his drama as complicated as possible to convey a simple message of brotherly love, or is it hate? Roseforns also tried to convey that whatever ill one does, he gets it back in the same measure.

Though Roseforns attracted a handful of people, his show clearly lacked the applause and encore other dramas receive.

Comedy by Kalyan (Louis) and Rajdan (Sally) added spice to the drama that dragged for three and half hours, starting one hour behind schedule.

The drama was organised by the Expatriate Club of Kuwait.



Succorina sings the only song. (Photos by Ahmad Emad)



A neighbour (Evangelisto) gives Lawrence some advice.

CINEMA

CINEMA

Al Andulos
Arabic filmAl Salimiyah
Arabic filmAl Hamra
Arabic filmDrive-in
Arabic filmAl Firdous
Dana PaniFahsheel Open
Kaun Jeeta Kaun HaraFahsheel
ScroogedAl Jaha
Dil-e-Nadan

Granada

Azkhi Muqabala

Salalibikhat
Mad Mission 5Jeeb
Ammavano Pattiya AmaliAhmadi Drive-in
The Untouchables

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.28 am
Zahr	11.44
Asr	3.20 pm
Magrib	6.32
Isha	7.58



Those who live there

The Boushahri Gallery recently opened an exhibition entitled 'Those who live there'. The exhibition carries paintings of Arab artists Jaffer Islah, Jaffer Kaaky, Rashed Diab, Dia'a Al Azawi and others. Opening times are from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 pm to 12.30 pm. The exhibition will be on show until the end of May.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30	Opening with the Holy Quran
9.45	Cartoon serial
10.15	Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30	Daily Arabic serial
11.30	Cultural film
12.00	Candid camera
12.30	News in brief
12.35	Closedown

Evening

4.00	Opening with the Holy Quran
4.15	World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.30	Cartoon serial
5.00	Cartoons
5.30	Public announcements
6.00	Historical serial-Muslim judges
7.00	Songs
7.15	Agricultural magazine
7.30	Diwaniyat Shura Al Nabat
8.30	Good evening
9.00	News in Arabic
9.45	Daily Arabic serial: Layali Al Helmiya
10.30	Arabic play

KTV 2

12.00	News in brief
12.05	World Today via Satellite and close-down
6.00	Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10	The Bereastain Bears: A cartoon series for children
6.30	The Beachcombers
7.00	The Shadow of Fujisan: A look at Monkeys in Japan that live on trees or in running waters and are used as a means of communication by Japanese monkeys!!
7.30	Tricky Moves
8.00	News in English
12.10	Magazine D'Actualite

8.30 Matlock "Best Friend" A journalist threatens to disclose the secrets of a well known senator who is found murdered. His wife accuses the journalist of murdering him.

9.30 Body Matters "The best goes on..." A look at the human heart as a blood pump...the formation of the heart in the embryo...

10.00 The Nut House "My Man Tarkington" An Englishman is appointed as the hotel manager who starts to implement the English style in hotels...

10.30 Bestseller "Tamara, Lion of Singapore" After meeting with Joly in the hospital in Ceylon John returns to Singapore to rebuild Dexters business empire.

12.00 News in Brief

12.10 Magazine D'Actualite

It's show time again

SATYADEV DUBEY, the enfant terrible of Indian stage, in course of an interview sometime back, said: "There is a good play, a moment where your happiness and the happiness of the audience finds a meeting point. When that happens it is a sublime blessing. But the process to win over the mass, sitting in the dark, is not easy. When you get the flavour of its response, when you know the mass is moving with you even if you try a different modulation It is really a great high."

Last year, the first ever IAC One-Act Play Competition held in Kuwait had ended on such high note with sublime blessing of the expatriate audience. They did not walk in late, whisper loudly during the performance, eat high decible crunchies, and pass derisive remarks as it often happens in most theatres in India. The audience-actor dynamics in the IAC auditorium last year during the One-Act Play Competition was unique, whether it was "Andu-Indu-Mundu," a Kannada one-act play or "Tazhvarayude Thengal," a Malayalam one-act play, a tragic Bengali play, or a Tamil comedy—the 12 plays with towering stage presence of some artistes, impeccable dialogues, stage management and costumes and polish in some productions, reached out to a large expatriate audience in packed auditorium. It was fascinating to see some in the audience not following the dialogues in some language plays still enjoying them enormously. The quality of the attention that the audience brought expressed itself in silence and concentration—a feeling that encouraged the artistes and the competition organisers greatly.

There was a clear evidence of healthy competition which augurs well for the NRI theatre movement in Kuwait. The NRIs of Kuwait have not only given a distinct lead in the areas of investments in India, but also are creating waves in cultural and literary activities. The Indian Arts Circle of Kuwait, apart from providing entertainment and diversion to the large Indian expatriates, has been encouraging flowering of talents in diverse cultural activities as well.

The theatre celebrity Peter Brook in his recent book "The Empty Space" observes "If good theatre depends on a good audience, then every audience has the theatre it deserves." This year the audience deserves to view clean entertainment in 16 one-act plays from different play groups planning to perform in the 2nd IAC Play Competition at the IAC auditorium. Many expect that with this event the NRI theatre movement will take a positive turn.

A room full of foreigners

By Dave Freeman

HAVE you ever been double booked in a hotel in a foreign land and found that the hall porter seems to be in sole charge and has very little interest in your plight?

Have you ever dreaded finding that your holiday hotel is a replica of Fawlty Towers, with leaking radiators, noisy plumbing and with room maids and plumbers who are not quite what they seem?

The current comedy that Kuwait Players are rehearsing features both these situations and a whole lot more besides.

There are marital tiffs, misunderstandings, a lost ring, irresponsible hotel staff, mistaken identities, a boorish plague scare, some bizarre guilty secrets and, as if any colour were wanted, a local village festival.

You will be delighted with the cast, most of whom have been seen on stage already this year at least once.

Karak, the less than efficient Concierge, who certainly knows how to look after Number One, is ably played by Paul Dillon. (Victor Velasco, from Barefoot in the Park).

Heinz, the amorous "movie buff" of an hotel owner runs the hotel by flattering ladies and is played most suitably by Mohammad (telephone repair man from Barefoot in the Park).

Stanley Parker, the naive, inept and harrassed husband on his first European holiday, is portrayed with the right degree of agitation, by Andrew Maynard (Jimbo and the Gorilla in "When did you last see your trousers?")

Brenda Parker, Stanley's easily flattered wife, who falls prey to the insidious charms of the hotel owner, Heinz, is delightfully played by Catherine O'Brien whom you saw in April as the Post Office's answer to Super Woman.

Helga Philby, an erstwhile nurse of Germanic origins, who displays an outward calm which conceals an autotonic not of emotions, is proficiently played by Elaine O'Shaughnessy. (Remember the recent "On Pink Paper In Black and White").

Claude Philby, Helga's compound -- oh so English -- husband, is self-righteously played by "Oh Clarence's" bumble footed clergyman alias David Barefoot.

Last but not least, the French female friend of Claude, who has a penchant for upsetting apple carts, is effectively played by Michelle Jeans. (Barefoot in the Park and "On Pink Paper In Black and White").

You are assured of an evening of laughter, so make a note of the following dates at the Universal American School.

Mon to Thur inclusive 28th to the 31st May, ring 5321294 or 5615357.

ARTS

Pakistan Arts Circle
THE Sixth Arab Children's art show will be held at the Dahiya Abdulla Al Salem Gallery, near Fatima Mosque, from May 12 to 21. The paintings and drawings of children from several Arab and Gulf countries will be on show. It will be open from 9 am to 12 noon and 3 to 7 pm, except weekends.

SOCIAL

NRI Up-date
THE NRI Investors Forum meeting in Indian embassy auditorium at 11.00 am on Friday, May 25, 1990. Up-to-date reporting on forthcoming Third Gulf NRI Conference in New Delhi. All Indians cordially invited.

Approb meeting

THE bi-monthly meeting of the Approb members will be held on May 17, 1990, at 7 pm at the residence of Iqbal Latif.

The meeting will be followed by dinner and entertainment. All members are requested to attend.

Meanwhile, the Approb executive board has decided to compile "Who is who" directory of Pakistani professionals and businessmen in Kuwait. Modalities of the project will be discussed at the May 17 meeting.

Hyderabad Mushaira
THE committee for celebrations of four centenary of Hyderabad Deccan, is going to hold a grand Mushaira, on Thursday, May 17, 1990 at 8.00 pm at Carlton Tower Hotel, Fated Al Salem Street. Guest poets from Hyderabad will participate in it along with prominent local poets. A limited number of seats left. Reserve your seat now to avoid disappointment. For passes and more details call Khalid Hyderabadi, on 4735591 ext. 34 (between 7 am - 12.30 pm).

Painting exhibition
A PAINTING exhibition titled, Around the World, will be held at Kuwait International Hotel from May 8-16 by Mrs Luz Marina Colwell, an American citizen born in Colombia, South America. The exhibition will show subjects from different countries as well as a special section on Kuwait. It includes cityscapes, deserts, landscapes and Islamic designs. Tel.: 253000.

Windsurfing
ALL are welcome to the Messilah Beach Hotel open windsurfing event on Friday, May 25, 1990.

Prizes for experienced, novice and lady windsurfers. Entry fee is KD3. Maximum sail size ID 7.5 square metres. For further information please call 5624111 ext. 739.

Tamil drama
IAC presents a hilarious Tamil comedy by "Enthusiasts," after their last year's roaring success of *Unnai Ullai Enna*. Programme is at IAC hall on May 25, 1990 at 7.00 pm.

For entry passes contact 3904817, 5616930, 48894874 and 3903879.

Sweet sorrow
That the Viennese were immensely proud of their music and the city that cherished it, is evident from the number of titles of compositions that include the city's name.

Thus you have "Wiener Blut" (Viennese blood), a beautiful waltz, then a march entitled "Wien bleibt Wien" (Vienna will always be Vienna) and "Wiener Burger" (the Citizens of Vienna). They went even further in self-adulation as could be seen from

another title "Angels on holiday in Vienna."

Yet, they are easily forgiven and one is hard put to choose a

favourite piece.

I must admit partiality to Csardas, a national dance of Hungary also known as a court-

Indian Arts Circle

HERE'S good news for lovers of one-act plays. A wide variety of one-act plays to reach as wide an audience as possible is going to be staged from 17th to 31st May 1990 at the IAC auditorium for the 2nd IAC One Act Play Competition. After the roaring success of the 1st One Act Play Competition, 16 teams are planning to perform plays in languages ranging from Malayalam to Marathi. The inaugural offering is a Konkani play at 8 pm on the 17th May. Watch out for further information in this column.

CHINESE CORNER: Enjoy Chinese cuisine every Monday night at La Brasserie. In addition to our daily lavish buffet our chef will prepare Chinese specialties in front of you.

COWBOY NIGHT: Every Sunday enjoy live country music, Western decor and hearty ranch food: prime ribs, burgers, tacos and great desserts including mops, apple pie. Join us at La Brasserie for

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Opec
meeting
set for
July 26

VIENNA, May 12, (Agencies): The Opec oil ministers will meet in Geneva on July 26 for their mid-year conference to discuss output ceiling and redistribution of national quotas for the second half of the year.

A reliable source at the Opec secretariat here told Kuna today that the conference will be preceded by preliminary consultations by the eight-member oil prices and production monitoring committee which will meet on July 25, one day before the conference.

The source predicted that another ministerial meeting would be held in Morocco late November at the invitation of the Moroccan monarch King Hassan II.

The Opec Secretary General Dr Subroto has earlier announced that the ministers accepted King Hassan's invitation to hold their year-end session in Morocco.

The price and production committee comprises oil ministers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Algeria, Nigeria, Indonesia and Venezuela.

He added, that the Opec economic committee will meet on July 24th in Geneva to work out resolutions on the world economy and its impact on the supply and demand at the world market.

Oil ministers of 13 Opec countries held an extraordinary meeting on May 2 in Geneva and decided to slash 1.5 million barrels from Opec daily oil production to stop the decline of oil prices.

Opec President and Algeria Oil Minister Sadek Boussena said yesterday he was optimistic world oil prices would soon reach the group's 2.18-a-barrel minimum target.

Boussena said a recent oil price rally showed that big output cut agreed in Geneva last week by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries was off to a good start.

"This is a beginning which gives us optimism. But the market is waiting for these decisions to cut production to be applied in the field," he said during an Algerian television show.

Opec agreed to cut April's 2.35 million barrels daily output by 1.445 million barrels every day until the end of July to reverse a 25 per cent slide in prices since January.

Prices have already shot up by some \$12 a barrel but are still short of the Opec reference price.

"I have guarantees from all the ministers at the meeting that in the coming weeks this decision (to cut output) will be implemented, to correct prices and return as soon as possible to the \$18 official price," Boussena said.

He called the Geneva meeting a success because Opec ministers realised how dangerous the oil price drop had become. "We reached a degree of danger that forced the organisation to unite," he said.

Japan may not extend loan to India

TOKYO, May 12, (Kuna): Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama today said that Japan may not extend an additional loan for the completion of a controversial dam currently under construction in West India.

Nakayama told the Japanese parliament (the diet) that the government will take a political decision over the issue after a thorough study of the matter.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told the parliament that no use to extend development assistance if it does not receive appreciation from the beneficiary countries, noting that he will issue an order to all concerned ministries not to contribute in projects that are likely to harm the environment.

Kaifu and Nakayama were answering questions submitted by a member of the opposing socialist party which said that opposition against the dam on Narmada River in Gujarat state has increased because 100,000 people will lose their properties as a result of the project.

Omani minister flies to Iran

NICOSIA, May 12, (Reuter): Oman, a mediator between Iran and its Gulf Arab neighbours, sent a senior envoy to Tehran today for talks with President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

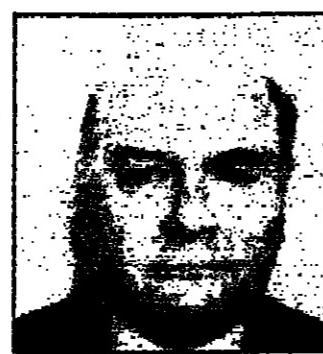
The Oman News Agency said Petroleum and Minerals Minister Said Bin Ahmed Al Shansari was carrying a written message to Rafsanjani from Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman, dealing with relations between the two countries.

The agency received in Cyprus, gave no further details. Oman, which has friendly ties with Iran, has been asked by fellow members of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) to mediate in easing tense relations with Tehran.

Top businessmen on Mideast tour

Canada sells high profile image

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff



CANADA hopes to build a high profile image in the Gulf by selling intangible products like technical know-how and expertise.

Top Canadian businessmen, currently touring the Middle East, yesterday said they expect a mini-boom by the 1990s and would like to be a part of what they see as a chance to "enhance the quality of life in the Gulf."

Canadians expect a construction boom in the oil sector due to expansion of downstream industries. Chances of competing in the maintenance contracts markets are also bright. They also expect renewed activity in the house building and road sectors.

Explaining their interest, they cite examples of recent Kuwait government plan to invest US\$2 billion in a petrochemical complex; \$300 million on the cause-

way to Subiya, which is the proposed site of a major urban development over the next 20 years; National Housing Authority plans to build 28,000 homes and the private scheme of building two "pearl cities" for 50,000 people.

"There is considerable potential to develop the market, par-

ticularly in trade and investment," said John Schieler, director-general of the Canada-Arab Business Council (CABC).

Mission leader Lambert Toupin sees the potential of developing joint ventures in what they see as "third country" opportunity -- Kuwaiti capital and Canadian know-how in

individuals in Canada. "There are Kuwaiti investment deals going on every day in equities, shares, directly or indirectly, and real estate," he said. Such transactions are done through banks or trust companies based in London or New York making it difficult for them to gauge the extent of the investment volume.

"A solid economic bridge could be built between Canada and this part of the world," said Toupin.

At the moment, Canadian exports form under one per cent of the total market share.

Exports from Canada to Kuwait were valued at CS20,743 in 1989.

Main exports are automobiles, wood and paper products, machinery and instruments, minerals, chemicals and allied products and foodstuffs.

"The trade figures are misleading because they do not

include Canadian products exported from a third country," explained Commercial Counsellor R. P. W. Mason.

For example, General Motors exports automobiles made in Canada to the region; telecommunication equipment is stockpiled in countries like Ireland, Singapore and Turkey before being sent to the Gulf.

The Canadians have also made substantial inroads in supplying technical know-how, education and training and consultancy services in various fields.

A Canadian firm has been invited to tender for the Pearls of Kuwait project; another firm is currently involved in the design and construction of the Kuwait Natural History and Science Museum. In the UAE, a Canadian firm recently won the \$67 million dredging and land

reclamation contract for the second phase of the Abu Dhabi corniche island project.

CABC's objective is to promote two-way trade between Canada and Arab-Gulf countries. Founded in 1983, the group plans to enlarge and diversify Canadian business presence in the region and enhance exchange of information.

The CABC delegation, one of the largest (25 members) and only the third to this part of the world, has already explored the markets of Egypt and Iraq. From Kuwait, they will be going to Abu Dhabi and Dubai as part of their Middle Eastern tour.

In addition to Toupin and Schieler, other members include Samir Salzal, president and vice-chairman of CABC; James Metcalfe of Consult Group; John Brooks of Brooks Investments; and Guy Cadieux of the External Affairs and International Trade.

Alshall market review

Price indices dip

THE Alshall Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 39.49 points with a decrease of 0.20 point -- 0.50 per cent -- from last week's average. The Alshall Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 51.93 points with a decrease of 0.81 point -- 1.54 per cent -- for the same period, according to Alshall weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 15.23 million shares at a daily average of 3.05 million shares with a decrease of 42 per cent from previous week's daily average of 5.26 million shares. Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 3.450 million shares at a daily average of 0.690 million share with a decrease of 41 per cent from last week's daily average of 1.177 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD5.24 million at a daily average of KD1.05 million, a decrease of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.140 million at a daily average of KD0.028 million, a decrease of 52 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.058 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the Banking Sector came first at 72 per cent of total trading against 60 per cent last week. Commercial Bank had the lead at 36 per cent, followed by Kuwait Finance House at 21 per cent and Burgan Bank at 13 per cent. The Investor Sector came second at 16 per cent in which Coast Investment & Development Company had the lead at 72 per cent, followed by National Investments Company at 11 per cent and Commercial Facilities Company at 8 per cent. The Industries Sector came third at 6 per cent in which The National Industries Company had the lead at 58 per cent, followed by Kuwait Cement Company at 42 per cent.

As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain Middle East Bank had the lead at 75 per cent, followed by Arabian General Investment Company (Shua'a) at 12 per cent and Umm Al-Qaiwain Cement Industries Company at 7 per cent.

The market showed signs of weak activity which was reflected on all six indices in both markets. The week started with high activity which was concentrated in the Banking Sector especially on the Commercial Bank's shares where there was a competition in majority in determining the coming board of director's elections.

However, this activity fell again and led to the decrease in the Commercial Bank's share percentage of trading within the banking sector. It is still difficult to predict the market short-term direction as there are forces pulling in opposite directions. Only one company declared dividend distributions (Shua'a) during last week and we believe that this will be the last company to do so this year.

The non-Kuwaiti shares market had the highest percentage in companies that declared dividend distributions as 71 per cent of total listed companies declared distributions while the percentage was 66 per cent for the Kuwaiti shares market and 50 per cent for the parallel market. The percentage of companies that distributed cash dividends in the three markets reached 63 per cent of total listed companies, and the remaining 37 per cent of the listed companies declared stock dividend distributions.

Total number of companies that distributed dividends was 35 companies of a total of 53 companies listed in all markets which represents 66 per cent and is slightly higher than the last few years.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

Wed.	Wed.	Change	
09/05/90	02/05/90	points	
Banking Sector	130.52	129.20	1.32
The National Bk	30.36	30.36	—
The Gulf Bk	23.97	25.03	-1.05
The Comm. Bk			

Al Ahli Bk 30.19 30.72 -0.53
Bk of Kt & ME 30.12 30.12 —
Kuwait R. Est. Bk 28.43 28.43 —
Burgan Bk 26.53 26.53 —
Kt Finance House 79.93 82.62 -2.69
Sector Index 49.42 49.50 -0.08

Inv. Sector
Kuwait Inv. Co. 9.18 9.18 —
Kt. Int. Inv. Co. 8.59 8.59 —
IFA 20.85 21.62 -0.77
Comm. Facilities 166.38 175.45 -9.08
National Inv. 55.88 58.82 -2.94
Kt. Inv. Proj. 86.52 87.64 -1.12
Coast Inv. & Dev. 77.65 82.35 -4.71
Sector Index 31.77 32.94 -1.17

Ind. Sector
Kt. Ins. Co. 34.68 34.68 —
Gulf Ins. Co. 25.38 25.38 —
Al Aleha Ins. 52.31 52.31 —
Wurba Ins. Co. 47.25 47.25 —
Sector Index 35.77 35.77 —

Real Est. Sec.
Kt. Real Est. 10.83 11.47 -0.64
Utd. Realty 5.04 5.16 -0.12
Nat. Real Est. 39.42 39.42 —
Pearl of Kt. 65.08 65.08 —
Sector Index 14.91 15.15 -0.24

Ind. Sector
Kt. Cmt. Co. 10.36 10.22 0.14
Ref. Ind. 82.36 82.36 —
Gulf Cables 113.13 113.13 —
Kt. Pharm. 53.33 53.33 —
Sector Index 28.54 28.43 0.11

Services Sector
Kt. Cmpt. Co. 131.76 131.76 —
Kt. Cinema Co. 7.32 7.32 —
Pub. W'hous Co. 55.56 55.56 —
Kt. Comm. M.C. 37.75 37.75 —
M. Tele. Syst. 350.00 355.00 -5.00
Sector Index 57.67 58.18 -0.51

Food Sector
L. Trad. & Transp. 25.63 25.63 —
Utd. Fisheries 10.62 10.62 —
Kt. Poultry 110.01 110.01 —
Kt. Food Co. 68.97 68.97 —
Sector Index 37.19 37.19 —
Overall Index 39.49 39.70 -0.20

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

Wed.	Wed.	Change	
09/05/90	02/05/90	points	
First G. Bk.	236.84	236.84	—
Bah. Intl. Bl.	82.76	84.14	-1.38
Bah. M.E. Bk.	83.53	83.53	—
A. Gen. Inv. (Shua'a)	43.94	43.94	—
Umm A.O. Cmt.	15.38	18.75	-3.37
Sharjah Cement*	18.01	18.26	-0.25
G. Med. Projs.	13.13	13.13	—
Total Index	51.93	52.74	-0.81

—Base period 31/12/1983.
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Economic news relieves Wall Street blues

NEW YORK, May 12, (AP): In the long-running debate over whether the American economy is growing too fast or too slowly, Wall Street has begun to entertain the possibility that neither side is right.

A surprising run of statistical reports in recent days has prompted some analysts to toy with the idea that conditions are close to a happy medium, favouring continued slow but steady growth without any drastic change in inflation.

Few people in the forecasting business are content simply to proclaim "clear skies ahead" and flip the switches off on their computer-powered crystal balls. As practitioners of the dismal science, they are paid to worry continuously about whatever might go wrong.

Still, just a few hints that the economy might be main-

US crude prices up

NEW YORK, May 12, (UPI): The price of US crude oil rose sharply yesterday as gasoline skidded from two cents a gallon, but crude still managed to end the week up nearly \$1 a barrel on indications Saudi Arabia was moving to ease the world glut.

Trading volume yesterday was a light 65,334 contracts. The WTI trading range was narrow -- a high of \$19.01 and a low of \$18.83 a barrel.

Unleaded gasoline for June delivery fell 1.70 cents to 61.89 cents a gallon on the Merc but ended the week 0.77 cents higher.

Prompt delivery unlead dropped 2.05 cents to 64.15 cents a gallon on the New York Harbour cash market on top of Thursday's 3.8 cent loss.

The combined losses wiped out the 6.8 cent gain made on Wednesday in response to a temporary tightness in the Gulf Coast market.

"Friday's crude market was dead in the sense that trading range was very narrow and volume was light," said Randall Rothenberg of Dean Witter Reynolds' International Energy futures group in New York.

MANAGER

SAUDI ARABIA

We are a major international company in the fast moving consumer goods field with several market-leading brands in the Middle East. We are now seeking a manager to manage and help build an already substantial business in Saudi Arabia.

The position will be based in Jeddah and involve working directly through the Company's exclusive distributor in Saudi. The successful candidate will:

- Be between 30 and 40 years of age.
- Have solid experience of selling and promoting fast moving consumer goods and managing sales personnel in Saudi Arabia and/or the Gulf.
- Be fluent in Arabic, and have first class written and spoken English.
- Have a sound understanding of fast

Amman expects stable currency

AMMAN, May 12, (Reuters): Jordan said yesterday it expected the dinar to remain stable and a debt rescheduling accord with its London Club commercial bank creditors to be agreed soon.

"We intend to stabilise the dinar/dollar rate at the current level which is most adequate," Central Bank Governor Mohammed Said Al Nabulsi told reporters at a Ministry of Information weekly press briefing.

"Various (economic) indicators point to a stable situation for at least a year," he said.

Jordan turned to the International Monetary Fund a year ago after hard currency shortages forced it to suspend most foreign debt payments. The debt stood at \$8.06 billion at the end of 1989, compared to \$8.3 billion a year earlier.

Amman has reached bilateral debt rescheduling agreements with the Paris Club of official creditors except Britain, Belgium and Sweden and expects to sign a final rescheduling accord with banks in the London Club of creditors in a month.

"There is absolutely no difference on the restructuring ... everything is normal and there is nothing to stop a full accord which we expect to be signed in a month's time," he said.

Officials say the long-delayed accord on a \$1.1 billion bank debt with the London Club would pave the way for new loans of up to \$50 million.

In March, Jordan repaid the last part of the London Club arrears of \$80 million originally due by the end of 1989, and plans to use the new money partly to cover 1990 interest due to banks.

The London Club steering committee agreed in November the fresh loans would carry interest at 13/16 point over libor to be paid at the end of their three-year term, diplomats say.

Nabulsi said stabilising economic indicators included an expected 25 per cent increase in remittances from Jordanians working abroad, a stable balance of trade and Arab aid of around \$400 million, he added.

"He said 'Ainam had received \$20 million from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Jordan budgeted for \$360 million in Arab aid for 1990 and is hopeful oil-rich Arab states will give it the much needed assistance."

Nabulsi said he expected a total of \$750 to \$800 million in remittances in 1990, up on last year's \$600 to \$650 million.

He said this week's mild fluctuations in the dinar's value against the dollar in the black market was not indicative of any weakening of the dinar.

While the dollar has been falling against the dinar at the Central Bank official rate because of a decline in its value on the international market, it firmed slightly on the black market during the past week.

The Central Bank's fixed rates have ranged between 667.0/671.0 to the dollar while it was trading for 690.0/700.0 on the black market compared to 682.0/680.5 a week earlier.

US producer prices dip

WASHINGTON, May 12, (Reuters): The US government on Friday reported a fall in producer prices and retail sales for a second straight month, strengthening the case for lower interest rates to stimulate a weakening economy.

The project of easing inflation and lower interest rates sent stocks and bonds soaring and the dollar down. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 50 points to 2,785.50 at 3 pm EDT (1900 GMT).

A sharp drop in food and energy costs pushed the producer price index down 0.3 per cent last month after a 0.2 per cent decline in March, the Labour Department said.

Retail sales dropped 0.6 per cent—their sharpest tumble in six months—after slipping 0.2 per cent in March, the Commerce Department reported.

Wall Street economists had expected producer prices, which eventually affect prices at the consumer level, to climb 0.2 per cent and retail sales to grow by 0.3 per cent.

But the slumping figures showed the economy was much weaker than thought. "It's difficult to find a consensus among economists that interest rates may be headed down."

"It could be we are seeing the start of a modest turn-down in the economy," said Hugh Johnson of First Albany Corp.

Exchange Rates

Indian rupee	16,890
Sri Lankan rupee	7,350
Pakistani rupee	13,370
Bangladesh taka	8,440
US dollar	29090
Pound sterling	48975
UAE dirham	07916
Deutsche mark	17800
Japanese yen	001914

Japan eyes more LNG imports to meet power needs

TOKYO, May 12, (Reuters): Fast-growing energy demand and the need to cut pollution will spur substantial growth in Japan's liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports and the Middle East could become a major supplier, industry sources and analysts said.

"Demand for LNG from the Japanese electric power industry is likely to increase by 8.5 million tonnes over the next 10 years and demand from gas utilities will rise by 5.5 million tonnes over the same period," said Masatoshi Shioiri, analyst at UBS Philips and

Drew International Ltd. Japan imported 33.09 million tonnes of LNG in 1989, up 7.6 per cent from 30.77 million tonnes in 1988, MITI statistics show. About 75 per cent was for electric power use and the rest for gas companies.

"It is highly possible the government will revise its forecast of Japanese LNG demand sharply upward," said Tsutomu Toichi, chief economist at the Institute of Energy Economics (IEE) Japan. The institute expects demand in the year 2000 to be 48 million tonnes,

against 38 million estimated by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

MITI expects to complete a revision of its long-term energy outlook by the end of May.

Japan currently has contracts allowing it to import a total of 38 million tonnes of LNG a year, and could squeeze another 14 to 15 million tonnes from existing supply sources, Toichi said.

If carbon dioxide emission controls to deal with the environmental

problems of global warming become stricter, this will not be enough, Toichi said, and Japan would have to look for new projects.

Such new LNG capacity would help replace coal and oil-fired power generation. LNG emits about half the carbon dioxide of oil when burned.

About 52 per cent of total LNG imports in 1989 came from Indonesia, 20 per cent from Malaysia, 16 per cent from Brunei, seven per cent from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), three per cent from the US and the rest from

Australia and Algeria, according to MITI figures.

The new interest in LNG also results from greater Japanese government concern about securing stable sources of energy supply.

Qatar, for instance, has strong interest in selling LNG to Japan, but Japanese users are still hesitant to contribute to development projects so far away, they said.

"LNG tankers are very expensive and the longer distance means that you need more tankers," one source said.

A help programme needed to stop economic collapse

Germans to finalise monetary union pact

BONN, May 12, (Reuters): East and West Germany raced ahead today to finalise agreement on monetary union, despite warnings that the merger of their divergent economic systems could create mass unemployment and social unrest in the East.

Negotiators meeting in Bonn hoped to resolve their final disagreements by Sunday and complete a draft treaty to apply West Germany's strong currency and free-market laws in East Germany on July 2. The treaty is the first major step to full political unity.

Most details are settled, including the vital rates for exchanging the East German marks into West German marks, but East Berlin wants protection against West German property speculators and a better deal for its old or poor citizens.

These two groups will suffer most when subsidies are scrapped and rents and prices rocket in East Germany during the transformation from a government-Marxist economy to a Western-style free market one.

Bonn's Chancellor Minister Rudolf Seitzer said there was still a chance that the treaty, which the Bonn cabinet hopes to approve on Friday, would not be ready until later in the coming week.

He told Cologne Express newspaper the weekend talks would focus on social welfare, property

rights and ways to prevent speculators making a killing in the currency exchange.

West Germany's Der Spiegel news magazine said East German Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diestel was preparing for social unrest as he expected the number of jobless people to reach 2.5 to four million — in a country of just 16 million people.

It said in a report released ahead of publication on Monday that Diestel had asked Bonn to provide extra riot gear for East Germany's police, including 8,000 shields and 900 pistols.

East German Employment Minister Regine Hildebrandt told the magazine that special transition rules were needed to protect East German firms from mass bankruptcy and unemployment while they adapted to open competition.

She said the East's employment situation was desperate. Bonn would have to invest quickly in a job creation programme if it wanted to avoid a renewed flood of immigrants to

the West.

Stefan Hilsberg, party manager of the East German Social Democrats (SPD) in the coalition government, told the West German newspaper Bild that some party leaders wanted to quit the coalition unless Bonn gave pensioners a better deal. He warned that large-scale strikes were possible.

Wolfgang Roth, economics expert for the West German SPD, said a help programme was needed to stop economic collapse. "It was clear from the start that this headlong drive into the world economy would wreck whole sectors in East Germany," he said.

West Germans must foot the huge bill for monetary and economic union but Chancellor Helmut Kohl, with an eye to West German elections in December, has promised not to raise taxes.

About 5,000 left-wing demonstrators marched through the centre of Frankfurt, West Germany's financial capital, today to protest against German unification.

Ethiopia slashes personal taxes

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, May 12, (AP): The government has slashed personal and business taxes in ongoing reforms to boost Ethiopia's economy, retarded by over a decade of Marxist practices.

The official Ethiopian News Agency reported today the state cut taxation on personal income about \$18,000 a year from \$9 per cent to 59 per cent.

Taxation on dividends was also reduced from 25 per cent to 10 per cent, the news agency said, quoting a statement from the Ministry of Finance.

"That's the way it ought to be," said Bush, who has urged all parties to adopt a code of silence once negotiations begin.

Asked whether he would consider higher taxes, Bush said: "It would not be dealing in good faith if I started going into these details."

A new investment code has already been published and for the first time in 15 years permits local and overseas investors to participate in early all aspects of the economy.

New compact wagon and van

TOKYO, May 12, (UPI): Nissan Motor Co. announced Friday the domestic release of all-new compact wagon and commercial van, featuring a spacious interior and improved performance.

The Tokyo-based automaker said the "Avenir" wagon, developed around the concept of orthodox styling, offers a spacious interior and agile performance.

In addition to incorporating all features of the wagon, the Avenir cargo provides outstanding practicality as a commercial van, the company said.

It said the wagon will be available with either the SR20DE or SR18DI 16-valve, twin-cam, in-line 4-cylinder engine.

The van offers a choice of two new powerplants, the GA16DS 16-valve, twin-cam, in-line 4-cylinder engine or the CD20 OHC in-line 4-cylinder diesel engine, which features quietness and fuel economy, the company said.

The company said it projects monthly sales totalling 4,000 units.

Retail prices ranges from 1.016 million yen to 2.02 million yen (\$6,500-13,000).

Smuggling just one problem as Yemens prepare to merge

SANA'A, May 12, (Reuters): A huge smuggling operation controlled by fiercely independent North Yemeni tribesmen is just one of the problems the two Yemens face as they prepare to merge by the end of May after 300 years as separate states.

A steady stream of vehicles laden with smuggled electronic goods and foodstuffs rolls south daily along the main paved road linking the North Yemeni capital Sana'a with its northern towns.

Bankers and economists say the black market trade with neighbouring Saudi Arabia is worth around \$2 billion a year and supplies most of North Yemen's private sector needs.

"It's difficult to say what will happen because there is not much complementarity between the two economies and neither is in good shape at the moment," one economist said.

Last July, North Yemen boosted tax rates by telling owners of smuggled cars it would register the vehicles if they paid one third of the official 150 per cent duty.

Last January North Yemen rescheduled

an estimated \$300 million of commercial debt, mainly letters of credit.

South Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries, borrows less and has a reputation for always paying on time.

North Yemen Foreign Minister Abdur-Rahim Al-Iryani told Reuters recently that his country was preparing a commercial investment law. It would also apply to the South which has been liberalising its economic and political institutions ahead of the merger.

A statement issued in Sana'a last week declared the currencies of both countries legal tender in either state, a first step in establishing a common currency.

Finance ministers of both countries are due to draw up a budget for the unified state by May 20.

Diplomats say a major challenge will be whether a united Yemen can attract entrepreneurs who left the South when Aden turned socialist after independence from Britain in 1967.

Remittances likely to rise

Jordan gets UAE aid

AMMAN, May 12, (AP): Central Bank Governor Mohammad Said Nabulsi announced yesterday that Jordan received a \$20-million grant from the United Arab Emirates and said that more Arab aid was expected to help this country out of its financial crisis.

The bank governor also said that he was unhappy with an initial draft agreement with the London Club of creditors for financing a \$580-million rescheduling package.

He said the bank's foreign currency reserves reached \$390 million, including the new aid received.

He said last year reserves were registered at \$200 million in the red, with their lowest amount April 1989 when the country was wracked by four days of rioting sparked by economic problems.

The bank official added that the figure does not include an additional Arab central bank deposits totalling \$100 million considered as second line reserves for the next five years.

But last month, Finance Minister Basel Jarrah said that Jordan's total currency reserves were estimated at \$500 million and he expected them to increase to \$650 million before the end of the year.

Jordan has always relied on oil-rich Arab states as its primary financial donor. A consortium of previously pledged Arab aid to Jordan has led to the country's decline in foreign currency reserves and a total foreign debt of \$8.3 billion by the end of 1988.

As a result of the debt burden, Jordan in November introduced an economic adjustment programme and sought international creditors' help to reschedule its debts.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs) May 11, '90

Pr. Cl Open Close

ACC 464 476 475

Alcon Chem. — — —

Alvi Nis. — — —

Ami Fair. — — —

Ansari Ley. 89 85 87

Asia Paints. 236.25 237.50 241.25

Atlas Cop. 37 36 38

Auto Corp. 67.50 65 67.50

Natl Index. 420.65

Bajaj Auto. 442.50 448.75 445

Bar Rayon. 848.75 860 867.50

Blow Plast. — — —

Bom Dye. 216.50 224 218

BKB Bond. 118 116 118

Burr Wel. 7

Getting a crying infant to settle down and sleep is one of the hardest jobs a parent can face. FAITH MALL talks to the experts and finds there CAN be a peaceful solution

IT is the early hours of the morning, you just got into bed after putting the baby to sleep... and suddenly the crying starts again.

This isn't a nightmare but reality for parents with toddlers who won't stop screaming throughout the night.

A child with sleeping problems can leave you at your wits' end and cause great distress. But if you suffer from sleepless nights, you are not alone. Recent figures released by the British Medical Association show that up to 30 per cent of babies don't sleep through the night.

The BMA say the most common sleep problems in young children are those of wakefulness — either difficulties in settling at bedtime, or failure to sleep all night without interruptions.

But experts can't agree on what causes children to stay awake. The bedroom being too hot or too dark is one theory, others claim it is the parents' fault.

Mother of two Glenda Brown is Britain's first health care worker who specialises in solving the problems caused by babies who won't — or can't — go to sleep.

The 40-year-old from Newcastle-upon-Tyne has worked with more than 500 families over the past four years and says the main causes of sleepless nights are medical conditions.

She told me eczema, colic, wind and teething problems are painful and can stop children from sleeping. Often the parents suspect their tot may be ill but are reluctant to call a doctor.

"Other children suffer from food allergies and react to the mother's milk which again keeps them awake. But it's very distressing for the parent who doesn't know what is making their baby cry."

Glenda says breast-feeding babies can be kept awake because of the frequencies of feeds. She said problems come when the child who is used to staying up to eat won't go to sleep even if he isn't hungry.

According to health worker, a baby's environment is also important. "A child is usually quite happy to sleep in a warm and quiet room. Babies who are cold in their cots will cry to be picked up and when put in the parents' bed, which is much warmer, will fall asleep straight away."

A wet nappy may also be keeping the baby awake. "Although sounds so simple, parents sometimes forget to check that their child is dry when it's crying," said Glenda. "But the problem is rarely as easy as that to solve."

She speaks from experience. When her eldest daughter was growing up, Glenda and her husband spent endless nights trying to get the child to sleep.



A toddler that won't stop screaming through the night can cause distress.

When baby's bedtime is a nightmare for mum

"We'd get her to go to sleep and 10 minutes later she would be up again crying. We tried everything but nothing worked."

"I became very irrational and used to walk down the street resenting strangers who had slept all night. Our doctor couldn't help and luckily my daughter eventually grew out of the habit."

"But unless you've been through the problem yourself, you can't possibly understand how distressing it is for the parents."

"One mother was at the end of her tether when she came to see me. She felt as if her life was over because all she ever did was try to put her baby to sleep."

"She looked very tired and only after helping her could I see what not sleeping had done to her because she suddenly looked younger and totally unrecognisable."

"Another woman told Glenda she had come close to harming her child because of lack of sleep. The sleep counsellor told me: 'The mother had four other children and hadn't had any problems with them. Then the fifth came along and the baby wouldn't sleep.'

"Sleep disturbance can cause marriage problems. In a survey few years ago, members of the National Association for Parents of Sleepless Children agreed that life with a sleepless baby could wreck a marriage.

think. Her support group Crysis offers parents of children who can't sleep help."

She told me: "Parents come to us when they just can't go on. They blame themselves and feel helpless." Many are unable to cry on.

"Mothers need the most help because they feel isolated and find there isn't anyone they can talk to — not even their own husbands."

"Sleep disturbance can cause marriage problems. In a survey few years ago, members of the National Association for Parents of Sleepless Children agreed that life with a sleepless baby could wreck a marriage.



Play with the child before bedtime to tire him out.

Child management — Five Basic Principles, the consultant paediatrician at Oldham and District General Hospital says: "I can cure this problem which has mystified parents."

His programme is:

- Accept the baby as an individual human being from day one, not a toy that can be put away when you are bored with it.
- Give your child its freedom. Don't force it to eat when it leaves food or play games when it doesn't want to.
- Show who is boss. Let babies cry themselves to sleep at night. Giving in to attention-seeking is wrong.

- Never argue in front of a baby. It will respond to stable emotions and responsible attitudes.
- Use properly-run nurseries and play schools. Busy housewives may not have the time and skills to aid a toddler's learning process.

A recently-devised man-made solution to this tiresome problem is Babysht. Developed by physicist Ian Samson, the small box emits "white noise" similar to the sound of running water.

The noise is amplified by an ordinary telephone ear-piece. The sound is at its loudest for the first thirty seconds to attract the baby's attention.

In a test carried out at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital in London 80 per cent of the twenty babies fell asleep within five minutes of the device being switched on.

Nefertiti-Akhnaton

Egyptian royals to be reunited at cultural meet

The reunification of the two Germanys will bring together an ancient beauty, Queen Nefertiti, and her king husband in what promises to be one of the world's richest museums

BERLIN, (WNL): A 3,300-year-old couple — Egyptian King Akhnaton and Queen Nefertiti — have had an adventurous time in Europe since arriving in Berlin at the beginning of this century.

The centuries-old busts of the royal pair were found in a tomb in southern Egypt by the German-Orient Society, which brought them to Berlin.

These silent witnesses to the follies of modern Europeans survived the bombs of World War II but were separated when Germany was carved between East and West in 1945. Only now, with the two Germans nearing unification, will they be brought together again in what promises to be a major museum complex richer than most.

As the Soviet Army advanced on Berlin in the last months of the war, Nefertiti was spirited out of the city to a cave in southern Germany. After Germany was defeated she fell into the hands of the Allies, was taken to the West German town of Wiesbaden and in 1956 returned to West Berlin. Today, extravagantly lit by concealed spotlights in the Egyptian Museum in Charlottenburg, Nefertiti stands nobly eastward from behind a thick glass shield.

Like her husband, Akhnaton, Nefertiti had a lucky escape. At the peak of the war part of the Egyptian Collection was moved to a castle near Mecklenburg and was destroyed in 1945 during a last-ditch battle between Hitler's SS and the advancing Soviet Army.

Another part of the collection of priceless antiques had been hidden in a bunker

to protect it from Allied air raids. The treasures were destroyed not by bombs but by agents of Hitler who wanted nothing left to the victors.

Akhnaton survived that attempt at destruction and fell into the hands of the Soviets, who carted their share of the Egyptian Collection off to Moscow and Leningrad as war booty. But when a friendly regime was installed in East Germany, the plunder was returned to West Berlin's Bode Museum. There Akhnaton, his face disfigured and distorted in an expression of silent pain, gazes westward toward his consort on the other side of the Berlin Wall.

Thus the fate of two ancient statues from the tomb of Tel al-Amarna, near the southern Egyptian city of Minya, became interwoven with the violent 20th-century history of Germany. And now, as the planners in Bonn and East Berlin map out the future of a united Germany following the collapse of the East German Communist government, the royal Egyptian couple are to meet again.

In the days following the opening of the Berlin Wall last November, Professor Wolf-Dieter Dube, the general director of West Berlin's Museums Authority, sat down with the heads of the 29 state museums in East and West Berlin and started planning the structure of what will be one of the richest and largest single cultural organization in the world.

"We never believed we would have this moment in our sights in our lifetimes," said Professor Dube of the consolidation of the art collections. "Now we have it

before us. But it will take time."

Time — and money. Bringing the collections together again will cost two billion West German marks (more than \$1.2 billion), a considerable portion of which will go to rebuilding the former Egyptian Museum. Known as the New Museum, it was built in 1830 near Unter den Linden, Berlin's main avenue. Reconstruction has just begun on the fire-blackened ruins of the building.

Another casualty of the war was the exchange of information. For 40 years the East German regime guarded the pre-war files and inventories of the Berlin museums as jealously as it guarded its state secrets.

Karl-Heinz Priese, director of the East Berlin Egyptian Museum, remembers those not-so-distant days: "We needed the Ministry's permission for absolutely everything. Now, if I want to talk to my colleagues in West Berlin, I just have to get into the S-Bahn (urban railway) and I'm there in half an hour. Before, I had to apply for a foreign currency allowance, and so on. Everything was controlled, and official contact with our colleagues in the West was forbidden — though we did sometimes meet privately, of

course."

Museum curators from both sides are getting to know each other fast at regular meetings.

But because of the secrecy that veiled the museum files for so long, it will take two years for Professor Dube to find out exactly what Berlin possesses and what was lost in the war.

While West Germany pumped funds into its museums in West Berlin as a way of strengthening the cultural identity of the island city during the Cold War, East Berlin's museums suffered from corruption and overstaffing, and the reek of cheap disinfectant. Visitors would find museums and galleries unexpectedly closed, and priceless treasures languishing in storerooms or, in some cases, disappeared altogether.

The museums in East Berlin will now have to be streamlined according to Western standards of economy, which means drastic personnel cuts. "It is very hard to talk of long-term concepts with people who don't know if they will still be in their offices in a year's time," comments Professor Dube. With typical West German efficiency, Dube has already outlined the future for Berlin's collections.

The Ethnological, Far Eastern and Indian Collections will remain in the leafy West Berlin suburb of Dahlem. European art will find a home in the complex of modern buildings that make up the Kulturforum, south of Potsdamer Platz. The famous Museum Island, with its magnificent Assyrian, Greek and Roman collection already in place at the Pergamon Museum, will house the archaeological possessions.

The Berlin collections include some of the world's finest treasures. In the Pergamon visitors find whole temples, taken stone by stone from their sites and rebuilt inside the museum. The collection, like that in the British Museum or the Louvre in Paris, is a remarkable monument to both the many cultures it represents and to the crude politics of European imperialism, which simply transferred much of the artistic heritage of a colonized country to the collections of Europe by sheer force of money and might.

But museum officials in Berlin reject recent requests for the return of famous pieces, such as the bust of Nefertiti, to their countries of origin.

"It's really remarkable," says Professor Dube, "to watch how the old lines of communication in Central Europe are suddenly re-establishing themselves as though it was the most natural thing in the world. Because of the opening of the city to Eastern and Northern Europe, Berlin will inevitably find itself once more in the cultural position it attained between 1900 and 1930."

Bernadette musical — a dream come true

LONDON, (UPI): The story behind the musical "Bernadette" sound like the plot of a musical itself.

Two small-town teachers, who used to write playlets with music as a learning tool for their pupils, dreamed that one of their ideas was strong enough to be a hit in London's West End, and, perhaps, on Broadway.

The idea was the story of Bernadette, the simple French country girl who said she had a vision of the Virgin Mary near Lourdes, and the bitter controversy this caused before believers made it a

place of pilgrimage for millions.

They wrote words and music telling the entire story in song and dance — melodic and modern, according to those who have heard it — and then began the task of persuading producers in the faraway big city that a hit musical was waiting for them in provincial Shrewsbury, 160 miles (250 km) northwest of London.

Show business, they learned, as the rejections piled up, is not the protected environment of the classroom, but Maureen and Gwyn Hughes are not the

average songwriting team either.

For one thing Maureen, who wrote the lyrics and teaches drama, is a grandmother. Gwyn, her younger second husband, was a piano tuner with ambitions to compose and teach music.

"We had a lot of hard knocks but when they came we had each other so we kept on going," Maureen Hughes said.

The thought of giving up hardly entered their minds. Many parents had praised them for their work with children. And the local education board had even sent them on a summer tour of

American schools. On the advice of a theatrical agent to be more accessible they sold their house and furniture, moved into rented rooms and got jobs in a school on the fringe of the metropolis.

In their spare time they worked on the show. While taping a new song one day, using their students as a chorus, they overhead one of them say her father wanted to sell his trucking firm and become a theatrical producer.

"It was my daughter," said William Fonte whose firm, Willie's Wheels, specialized in transporting film studio equipment.

With a successful businessman abroad as producer things began to happen. Fonte had the tape of the score played to several thousand people involved in the show's production.

"Everybody likes it but the West End producers," he said. "We'll call it 'The People's Musical.' And we'll ask the people to help back it. Not with their life savings but as though they were having a flutter (bet) on a horse. Small angels."

More than \$1.5 million poured

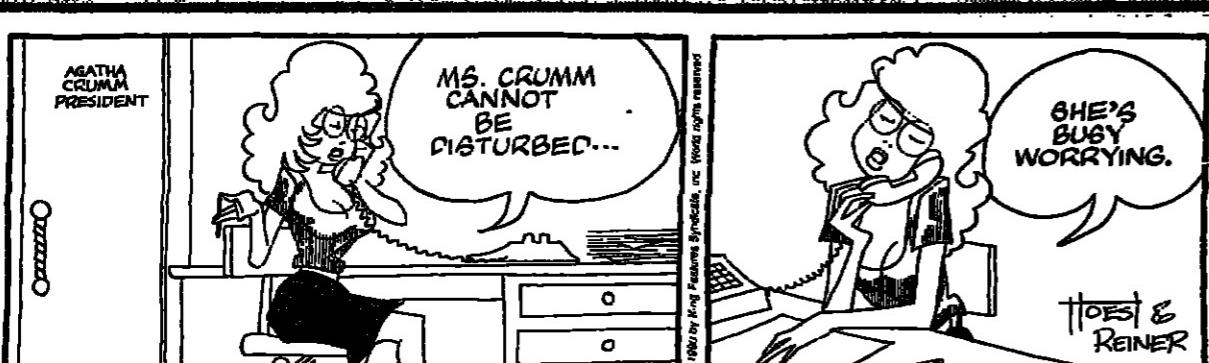
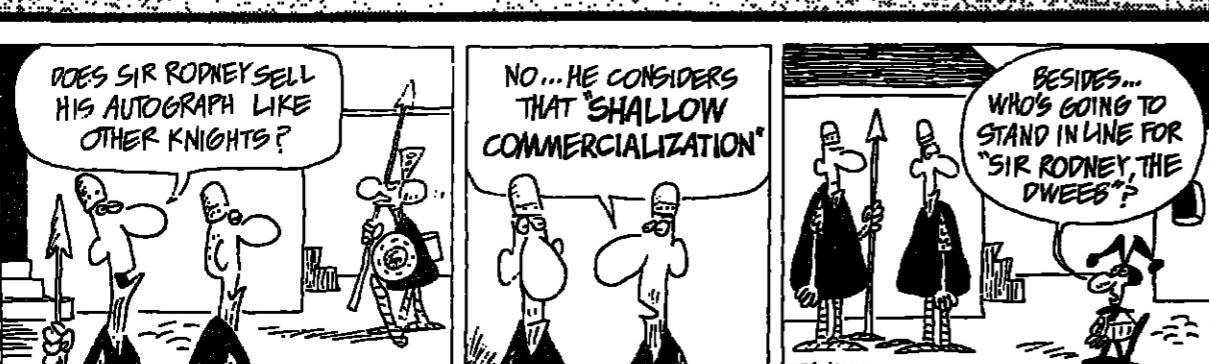
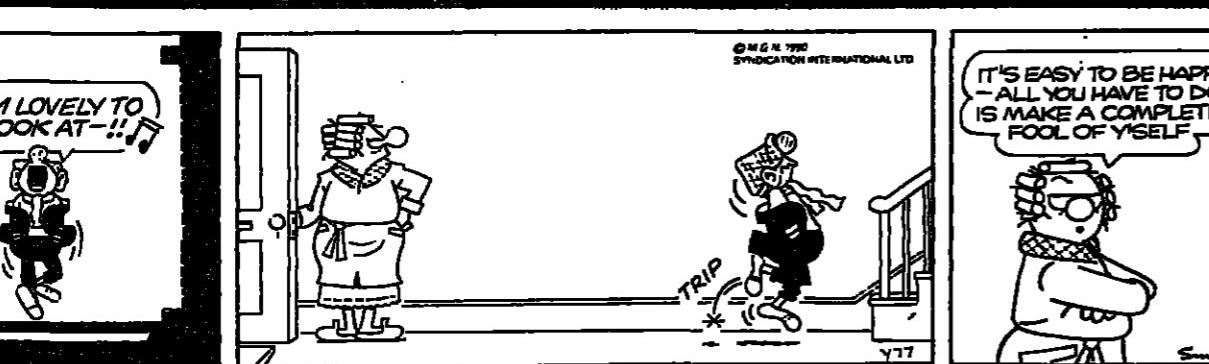
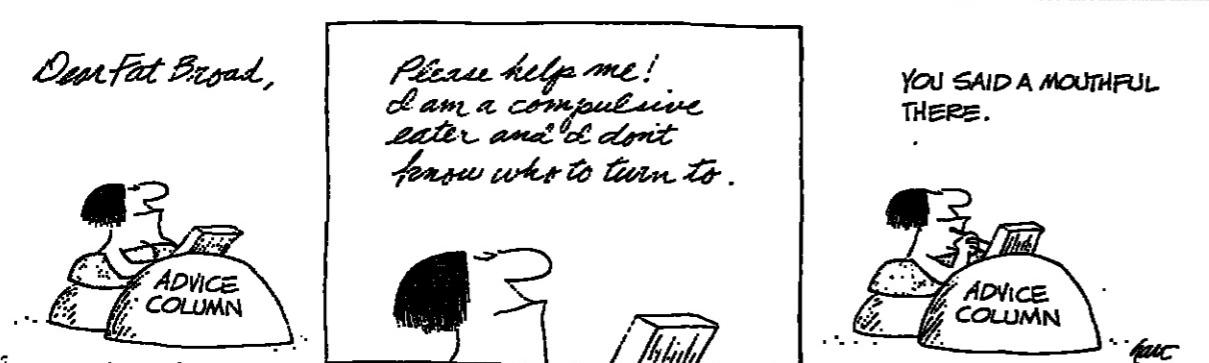
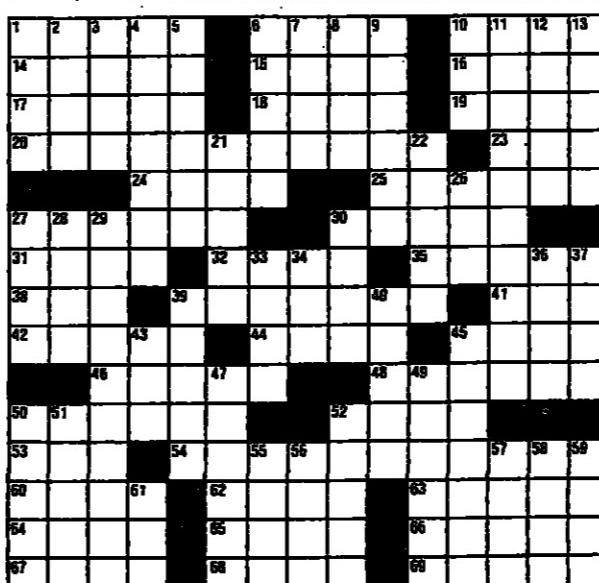
in from the public.

Natalie Wright, one of the featured singers in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Aspects of Love" left that show to play Bernadette, a star at 16. Her recording of the ballad, "Who Are You?" has just been released. Veteran TV figure Ernest Marom signed on as director. "A smash hit," was his not completely unbiased verdict.

"Bernadette" opens June 20 at the 2,000 seat Dominion Theatre in London. This is not quite a miracle but it doesn't happen everyday either.

These silent witnesses to the follies of modern Europeans survived the bombs of World War II but were separated when Germany was carved between East and West in 1945



BLONDIE By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUMM** By Bill Hoest**BEETLE BAILEY** By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** By G. Forton & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD****ACROSS**

- 1 Offspring
- 2 The Peacock constellation
- 3 Winglike
- 4 Pensive
- 5 Patriot Hale
- 6 Hot water
- 7 Shatner's "Star Trek" role
- 8 Therefore
- 9 Storm moving east
- 10 Turkish title
- 11 State number 42
- 12 Pseudonym
- 13 Bread ingredient
- 21 Strict Athenian
- 22 Meeting place for 21 Down
- 26 Be in debt
- 27 Hot rock
- 28 Earth turns on one
- 29 1989 event for 20, 39, 54
- 41 Prefix with dent or cycle
- 42 Houston athlete
- 44 Neophyte
- 45 Seethe
- 46 Musical composition
- 48 Humby
- 50 Facade
- 52 Satiate
- 53 — Arbor, Mich.
- 54 State number 40
- 60 Entity
- 62 King Kong's co-star Fay
- 63 Members of a jury
- 64 Meal on Molokai
- 65 Novelist Bellow
- 66 Complicate
- 67 Incarnation
- 68 Literary lioness
- 69 Lamb product

DOWN

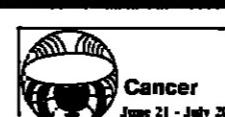
- 30 A Teddy
- 33 Stake
- 34 Pigpen
- 36 Seed cover
- 37 Gild the —
- 39 Elle's pouts
- 40 Wanderer
- 43 Hwy.
- 45 Certain European states
- 47 Sleep lightly
- 49 Pass
- 50 Spring
- 51 Medium
- 52 Groups of distantly related languages
- 55 Mountains between Europe and Asia
- 56 Greek T's
- 57 Certain South Americans
- 58 Trillion: Comb. form
- 59 Confederate
- 61 Famous pharaoh, for short

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

CHAIM	ISM'S	SEAT
RIANCE	NEAT	HIGH
ESTEE	TARA	OGRE
WHISTLER	SMOTHER	SAR
SAR	HEM	TEE
SHOE	MPS	NIT
EONS	ERMA	TANGO
THE	THREE	SISTERS
HOSEA	TATS	ROES
SIC	REL	ANYA
ASS	DIO	RAP
THE MAN	FROM	UNCLE
HAVE	ETUI	ROLES
OVEN	MEND	RAVEN
SENT	ANTS	SHIRE

YOUR STARS

Aries March 21 - April 19



Cancer June 21 - July 22



Libra Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



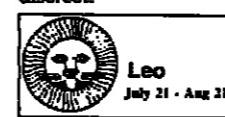
Capricorn Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You should try to take your mind off work for the day. Do not think you are always right whilst others are always wrong. You should make sure you keep your expenditure within reasonable limits. Be tolerant.



Taurus April 21 - May 20

You should not take too much if indeed put those close to you before you. Do not allow your thoughts and ideas to get into a rut. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 25. You would do well to spend a little time in the open air. Be respectful.



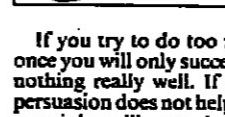
Leo July 21 - Aug. 22

You should keep your wits very much about you. Make sure you listen closely to what others are saying and curb your own voice. Ensure you take the best possible care of your health. Be cordial.



Gemini May 21 - June 20

If you try to do too much all at once you will only succeed in doing nothing really well. If charm and persuasion does not help then force certainly will not do so either.



Virgo Aug. 22 - Sept. 22

Make sure your facts are not out of date. Be moderate.



Scorpio Nov. 23 - Dec. 22



Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 20



Aquarius Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



Pisces Feb. 19 - March 20

There may well be an opportunity to amend for an omission, so be sure to take it. You should check your calculations — calculators are only as good as the buttons you press.



"Have you seen my pantyhose anywhere?"



"A bee won't sting you if you leave it alone."

GOREN BRIDGE**BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF****GIVE THE DEFENSE A HIGH FIVE**

Both vulnerable. South deals.

North

- ♦ K J 6
- ♦ K 9 7 6
- ♦ K Q J
- ♦ 10 9 6

West

- ♦ A 3
- ♦ 10 9 5 4 2
- ♦ J 10 8
- ♦ 5
- ♦ 6 4
- ♦ 9 8 7 3 2

South

- ♦ Q 8 7
- ♦ A Q 4 3 2
- ♦ A 10 5
- ♦ 7 2

East

- ♦ 10 9 5 4 2
- ♦ 5
- ♦ 9 8 7 3 2
- ♦ 4 3

Pass

Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

We had a leather wallet containing two decks of cards and a scorepad. Inscribed on it, in gold, was: "Life ain't holding the good cards. It's playin' a bad hand well!" Today's East would certainly agree with that philosophy.

With no ace or ruffing values, North's jump to four hearts might be considered a trifle aggressive. However, the overall had made life difficult, and the jump to game was an equitable solution to a thorny

problem. West led the king of clubs and continued with the jack. East echoed by first following with the four and then the three, to show an even number in the suit, and West paused to take stock. There were 28 high-card points to be counted in dummy and West's hand. In light of South's opening bid, West realized that East could hardly be relied upon for such a jack.

Whence could the defenders collect the setting trick? The trump suit offered the only possibility. West worked out that, if East had the five of trumps, the contract could be defeated. To make sure nothing got away, West cashed the ace of spades at trick three and then led a low club to make sure East did not discard.

East, a little surprised to see that dummy's ten of clubs was a potential winner, duly ruffed with the five. Declarer was forced to overruff with the queen, and mortal damage had been inflicted. No matter what declarer did, the defenders were assured of a trump trick for down one.

We like West's thoughtful defense. First cashing the ace of spades and then leading a low club made sure that if the contract could be defeated, it would be:



Thriller: sexy David Forde. He has a great deal of trouble convincing girls he is not their idol, superstar Michael Jackson.



Seeing double: stunning Elaine Holgado. She bears a striking resemblance to Italian movie star Sophia Loren.



Glamorous. Peter and Julie stand in the official pose of the Prince and Princess of Wales

The double life of sexy Sophia Loren

People can't believe their eyes when they see sultry beauty Elaine Holgado shopping.... for they are convinced she's film star Sophia Loren.

IT'S a tough job looking like Italian movie star Sophia Loren... as beautiful Elaine Holgado knows only too well.

For the 27-year-old stunner bears such a striking resemblance to actress Sophia that people frequently refuse to believe who she really is.

And it's hardly surprising. With her slanted cat-like eyes, the mane of dark brown hair and provocative mouth she is the spitting image of Sophia.

But now Elaine has turned her looks into her fortune and her work. She has joined a Lookalike model agency and has been busy ever since. So far as "Sophia," she has shot ads for everything from biscuits in Milan to lemon juice in Egypt.... and that could be just the start.

She says: "I am very flattered that people say I look like Sophia Loren. I suppose there is quite a strong resemblance between us. Whatever way I do my hair, makeup or dress, I still look much like her. I should be grateful because Sophia is very beautiful."

"I like the way Sophia does her makeup, so I do copy her in that respect, but we don't have the same taste in clothes. But when I am playing Sophia for the agency then of course I try to dress like she does."

"At times though my looks can be very frustrating. People just don't take me seriously. They must think that I've deliberately changed my appearance to look like Sophia."

"At home though I am Elaine. Working for the agency is like acting, I take on the role of Sophia."

But like the Italian superstar she portrays, Elaine's first love is acting and she says she has a burning ambition to follow Loren's footsteps into films.

"I would love to train professionally to be an actress," Elaine says. "But it would have to be in a role totally unlike any Sophia has played. I would like to play a 90-year-old woman. That would be a real challenge."

Elaine, from Croydon, Surrey, is married to Joseph, who is Spanish. The couple are expecting their first baby in a few months. Now heavily pregnant she is having to cut down on her work.

But she's not the only lookalike who's causing a stir and cashing in on her looks..... Tracey Weeks reports.

Says she: "I was told I looked like Sophia when I was 15 years old. At that age I didn't even know who Sophia Loren was."

But gradually people started pointing at me all the time especially when I went to Italy and France.

Elaine owes her dazzling looks to the Italian blood in the family on her father's side. Her grandmother, who she never met was Italian and her sister also looks like Sophia Loren.

"As I've got older though my resemblance to Sophia has got stronger," Elaine adds. "My husband gets fed up with it, especially when people come up to me and ask for my autograph."

Since Elaine has worked for the London-based Lookalike Agency, however, her feet have hardly touched the ground.

She says: "Travelling is the fun part of the job and even though I don't speak Italian, just a little Spanish, it doesn't seem to matter. I'm just enjoying my life."

"But as lookalike you do tend to become typecast and that's why sometimes I like to break away and be just plain Elaine Holgado."

The Lookalike Agency, now ten years old began with Jeanette Charles, a double of the Queen of England.

The idea snowballed and now, according to agency manager Rosemary DePass they have more than 200 doubles on books.

"Unfortunately a great deal of people on our lists don't get much work," she explains, "because we don't like to turn people away."

Their doubles range from Star Trek's Dr Spock, to Royals, Marilyn Monroe, Clark Gable, James Dean and Humphrey Bogart.

Rosemary adds: "Some of our doubles

are very good and some poor. But we are very successful and are growing all the time. What is quite surprising is that the market for lookalikes is also growing rapidly. Doubles are in great demand all over the world."

The doubles earn between £250 and £400 for a personal appearance and for a day's job it costs the client a minimum of £500.

But being a lookalike has a slightly less glamorous side, too. There are often hours of screaming fans who will do anything to get an autograph.

Londoner David Forde, has a great deal of trouble trying to convince teenage girls he's not their idol, superstar Michael Jackson.

His likeness is so strong.... despite Jackson's extensive plastic surgery.... that 20-year-old David gave in gracefully. The model and film extra was the official British Michael Jackson lookalike.

"I enjoy being Michael Jackson but I must admit it can get very frightening being mobbed like that. It's terrifying what lengths some fans are prepared to go to. The important thing is to be myself, as much as possible. It's easier to cope with it that way. I couldn't stand the pressure Michael must be under."

Rosemary says that the agency doesn't allow their lookalikes to get too big headed and makes sure they keep their feet firmly on the ground." For David Forde, she says, was "a reluctant" Michael Jackson.

Peter Hugo, aged 39, is Prince Charles. And they are similar in more ways than just looks.

He explains: "We like the same things in terms of humour, we are both fans of The Goons. And we are both public school boys. We both come from fairly well disciplined and traditional backgrounds.

"I have enormous respect for the

television in 1985, David, accompanied by beefy bodyguards, and wearing dark glasses, tried to pretend to be the real Michael Jackson.

He recalls: "The idea was that I would meet the real Michael Jackson, who was in England on a visit, and fool the press. But it all went wrong and Michael changed his schedule. Instead of fooling the press we fooled the public."

"We ended up at the Ritz Hotel, which turned out to be quite funny because they wouldn't let me in without a tie. But the manager really mistook me for Michael and told his staff they had to let me in because I was Michael Jackson."

"I enjoy being Michael Jackson but I must admit it can get very frightening being mobbed like that. It's terrifying what lengths some fans are prepared to go to. The important thing is to be myself, as much as possible. It's easier to cope with it that way. I couldn't stand the pressure Michael must be under."

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man."

Peter has worked for the agency for six years. But for him the work came at a fortunate time, as his business was not thriving.

"I am a rolling stone. I was never satisfied with what I had, not until now that is," he says. "This job suits my lifestyle. I enjoy it. I have never met Prince Charles, but I would like to.... as a person and not as a lookalike."

Much of Peter's time is spent, naturally enough, with Princess Diana.... alias lookalike Julie Woolridge.

The 28-year-old "D" joined the agency six years ago when the real Charles and Diana announced their engagement. Peter and Julie's work has taken them all over the world.

Julie says: "So many people told me how much I looked like Diana, that I approached my local newspaper. It grew from there. It can be fun being someone else, but you have to be careful not to let the character take over your life. It can become as obsession. But I suppose I am similar in the fact that we both love children. Unlike her though, I am not shy and I do like to be scruffy."

On one occasion Peter and Julie fooled a London restaurant by masquerading as the royal couple. When they had finished their meal and the bill was put on the table with the letters HRH printed on it and they walked out to the tune of God Save the Queen.

Peter adds: "I have a friend who runs a tea shop, where I have been visiting for 20 years. I know all the staff, but one day I walked in still playing my role of Prince Charles and one waitress, who knows me very well, really believed I was Charles. It was incredible."

There are other headaches to being royal lookalikes and Julie confesses she has to watch her weight for her role as Princess Diana. Peter meanwhile, reveals that he has to put special gum behind his ears to make them stick out!

Now Julie and Peter, David and Elaine are all leading double lives — and making a superstar-sized fortune at it.

Cinema

Aussie seeks US recognition

HOLLYWOOD. (UPI): First, it was Helen Reddy, then Olivia Newton-John and now it's Kylie Minogue — all talented singers who invaded this country from the land down under.

Minogue, however, is more than a warbler of popular songs. She is also an actress acclaimed in Australia and abroad, though not yet in the United States.

That's the reason the tiny, 21-year-old green-eyed singer visited Hollywood. She wants US audience to see her in the new Aussie movie *The Delinquents*, in which she stars as a pregnant 15-year-old runaway.

A veteran of Australian TV and movies, Minogue established herself as a dramatic actress long before she became a pop singer. As an 18-year-old in 1987 she was voted the most popular actress in Australia, propelled by her role in that country's No. 1 soap opera, *Neighbours*.

When she sang *Locomotion* with fellow cast members at a benefit four years ago, Kylie had no idea she would generate a singing career that would eclipse her acting.

She was approached by a local record producer who prevailed on her to fly to London to make a demo single of the song.

In July 1987, she released a single titled *The Locomotion*, a remake of Little Eva's hit in the early 1960s. It became Australia's biggest hit of the decade and No. 1 on the charts in 33 countries.

Thereafter, she cut two more singles, *I Should Be So Lucky* and *Get To Be Certain*, both of which soared to the top of the charts in Europe and Australia.

In 1988, now 19, she had three top-10 records and her first album, *Kylie*, went gold and platinum several countries, as did her second album, *Enjoy Yourself*.

Later in 1988, her records finally attracted attention in the United States with *Locomotion* selling more than a half-million copies.

With *The Delinquents*, the biggest film hit in her homeland, Minogue is busy with her two careers.

"I can't choose between them," she said. "I love doing both. But it is important to me to keep them separate. I don't want to sing in my pictures because people are liable to think I'm just a singer trying to capitalise on her popularity."

"Someday, I would like to work in a musical movie, but not until I establish my reputation as a dramatic actress. I would like to think people who buy my records would also like to come see my movies," she said.

"No one outside of Australia and England know that I was an actress to begin with."

"It would be a very good thing for my career to become as well-known in the United States as I am in Europe and Australia. One way to do is with a concert tour, which I plan to do," she said.

"But I can't base my whole future on whether I make it big in America. Right now I have to work as hard as anyone else to get a role in Hollywood movie because my popularity abroad doesn't mean that much."

"This is a very big and rich country. But it is possible for a performer to achieve stardom in the rest of the world without being a star in America," she said.

"Most of my income is from the sale of records, and concerts in Australia have done very well. I don't sing rock. My music is pop stuff with easy-to-listen-to lyrics."

"Mostly I sing ballads and music you can dance to. I like to think it's cool. People seem to like my singing voice."

Minogue played to crowds of 10,000-15,000 in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne and 40,000 people jammed a single concert in Tokyo. All her concerts are sold out well in advance.

Kylie speaks with a pronounced Australian accent. She is more outgoing than Reddy or Newton-John, who is one of the youngster's idols.

"I was only 11 when I did my first television acting," she said. "When I was 16, I joined the cast of *Neighbours*.

"I was under a lot of pressure for a teenager. Sometimes what I do is not just a job, it's a lifestyle. But now I know how to detach myself from it."

Despite her early fame and financial success, there is a wide-eyed piquancy to Minogue that brings to mind the young Leslie Caron. There is a winning vulnerability about her that suggests she could become a major movie star playing fey, gamine roles.

That, at least, is the opinion of several motion picture makers who have been talking to her agents about mainstream Hollywood films.

Keeping Khartoum's green belt green

By Alfred Taban

KHARTOUM, Sudan (Panos): A vast swathe of trees lies to the south of the Sudanese capital, Khartoum. It protects the city's seven million residents from the ravages of the annual sand and dust storms known locally as the "haboob".

The haboob is painfully familiar to the people of Khartoum and elsewhere in the country. It can cause them severe discomfort and loss of crops.

Recently, maintenance and development of the green belt has stagnated. But to Khartoum's relief, a newly created Forestry Commission announced in January that a programme of rehabilitation had begun.

The belt covers 7,035 feddans (about 40 square kilometres) and acts as a windbreak for the people, farms and crops of the area. "During haboobs, " says Abdel Salam Khalid, deputy director of the rehabilitation project, "crops and fruit trees such as oranges, lose their flowers and fruits and we suffer major production losses."

The belt performs a variety of services. Slowing down the winds, it allows gentler breezes to blow towards the city. Thirteen kilometres long and three wide (five by 2 miles), it provides wood for construction and fuel, both in high demand in the province. It is an important recreation spot for picnic lovers and sportsfolk, while universities and other institutions of learning send students there to learn soil conservation techniques and watering methods.

Most importantly, its long-rooted mesuit trees, star of the rehabilitation projects, are very effective in blocking the encroaching desert sands from creeping towards the city.

The first trees were planted in the belt in 1964 but it was not until 1986 that a project to expand the belt was initiated. The present three-year programme, jointly financed by the Sudanese government and the Finnish International Development Agency, Finnida, involves planting new terrain, clearing the forest and uprooting old trees.

Since 1964, up to 900 feddans, an eighth of the total area, have been planted with new trees. Even though the current phase will cover 165 more feddans, some 6,000 will still remain to be rehabilitated.

Trees are uprooted in their 26th year. "We cut away the stem of the tree after eight years but leave the stub so that new stems, sometimes four or more, can grow from it," says Khalid. "After another six years, we repeat the process." The same tree is cut twice more, also at six-year intervals.

Like most institutions in Sudan, the belt has its problems. The main one is lack of water. The green belt is an irrigated forest and cannot depend on rain-water. A canal, dug many years ago, is supposed to bring in some 65,000 cubic metres (2.3 million cubic feet) of water daily from the Blue Nile.

However, for the past three years no water has flowed through it. Khalid says several private farms along the canal's course are consuming all the water.

Currently the belt gets irrigation water from the Khartoum province sewage system. "Sewage water is good for trees," says Khalid.

There are other advantages in using this water. "First," he says, "it is not wanted by anyone except us. Secondly, a lot of it is being dumped into the White Nile, polluting the river."

So everyone would benefit if all the water came into the belt. However, it is not getting all the water it requires, says Khalid — "because only one of Khartoum province's two pumps is operational".

Although the working pump's capacity is 12 million gallons (54.5 million litres) a day, it currently pumps only three million gallons (13.6 million litres) of sewage water daily — all to the green belt. The remaining nine million is dumped into the White Nile.

"If all this sewage came to us, we would not only be able to plant more feddans but there would be no pollution problems in the White Nile," Khalid says.



Despite the chest beating reputation, gorillas are gentle vegetarians

VOLCANO PARK, Rwanda, (Reuter): Around midday in the Virunga Mountains of Central Africa, a group of gorillas munch leaves and shoots before taking a quiet snooze in their forest of giant bamboo.

Ndume, a massive silver-backed male and head of the family, sits in the middle, pulling a bamboo branch towards his mouth with one hand.

He lost the other in a poacher's trap years ago.

Grunting, Ndume rolls his impressive bulk over to sleep and the seven other adults in this extended family follow suit in a huddle

SNIPPETS



The picture shows: Four suspects cover their faces, afraid of publicity but not of effects of shabu on their buyers.

4 shabu suspects smoked out: Four suspected drug pushers in Quezon City were arrested in the act of selling shabu by the anti-narcotics men of the Northern Police District in separate buy-bust operations yesterday and Wednesday night.

Arrested were disc jockey Manuel Dandan, 25, of PM Apartelle, 24, Matalino St., Barangay Central; Artemus Ramos, 21, jobless, of 9 Manigo St., UP Village; Juancho Laquindanum, 28, of 48 Corveta St., and Christopher Lumauig of Fairview.

First to fall was Ramos who sold P200 worth of shabu to Pat Eugenio Buenabelles at about 7:10pm in the parking lot in front of Dandan's house. Ramos then squealed on Dandan, prompting the police to set a trap for the latter later in the night.

Dandan yielded an undetermined amount of shabu after receiving P400 in marked money from another "buyer," Pat Orlando Abengoa in the same parking lot.

Lumauig was arrested by Patrolman Rodelio Dionco, Jose Fernandez Roberto Miras and Buenabelles and yielded an undetermined amount of "suspected shabu." Lumauig later led the lawmen to Laquindanum who was also found in possession of shabu in a transparent plastic bag.

'Speed up oil fund bill': President Aquino urged Congress to speed up the passage of the bill on the oil price stabilization fund (OPSF) which funding that can provide an alternative against the impending increase sought by oil companies.

"I am avoiding such increases at this time if possible and if not, the government will take all possible measures to minimize its adverse impact on our people," the President said.

Local oil companies except the state-owned Petron Corp. are reportedly poised to demand increase in the prices of petroleum products wif in the week.

They explained that it is because of the recent increase in the price of imported crude oil which averaged more than P17 per barrel.

The oil companies also noted the deterioration of the peso against the dollar as a reason for such demand.

Budget Undersecretary Benjamin Diokno, when asked about the P5 billion supposed to be allocated for the OPSF, said that the money has been deposited in the treasury.

Diokno said that the executive department cannot spend the money u. the bill on the OPSF standby fund is signed into law.

He explained that there is no legal basis to release the money.

Diokno stressed that no payments will be made unless the Commission Audit approves it.

Five honest men are Cabbies of the Year: Five taxi drivers who returned to owners several thousands of pesos in cash and jewelry left behind by their passengers are this year's recipients of the Kalakbay Taxi Drivers of the Year awards given by the Department of Transport.

Each winning driver received P10,000, a trophy and an all-expense paid trip to Singapore.

Francisco Bartolome, of Luzviminda Taxi, returned a blue coat containing a passport, airplane tickets and P60,000 to their Australian owner who left them in the cab.

Henry Uy of La Suerte Taxi, who had been missing since 1983, returned a bag containing documents and \$3,000 to an unidentified foreigner who stayed at the Manila Pavilion.

Ariston Balongoy of EMG Taxi returned some P70,000 to Robert Gilford, an Australian tourist.

Juane Egulor of Emsor Taxi returned to its owner a clutch bag containing P7,692.55. Robert Tridad of Belmas Taxi returned to its owner valuable and cash amounting to P100,000.

Police Captains Wenceslao Ealdama, Jr. and Guillermo Luanzon, Jr. of the Western Police District and Pfc. Samuel Turla of the Pasay City Police Department were also recognized by the DOT as the Frontliners of the Year for their outstanding performance in maintaining peace and order in the tourist areas and extending assistance to tourists.

Napolcom guard shot: Zamboanga City: A security guard of the regional director of the National Police Commission was shot to death by two men in a restaurant near the Zamboanga International Airport.

Zamboanga police identified the victim as Ireno Gomez, 33, who died from four gunshot wounds in the head, neck and the body.

Witnesses told police Gomez was waiting for a ride but went back into the restaurant when he failed to get one.

Gomez is a relative and security guard of Zamboanga Regional Director Renato Montenegro of the Napolcom.

Montenegro had expressed fear for his life after getting involved in a controversy over the replacement of a high-ranking Zamboanga police officer some months ago, an investigation said.

The witnesses said they saw two men follow Gomez and shoot him at close range with a .45.

Four rebels slain: Government soldiers backed by helicopter gunships shot dead four communist rebels in a running gunbattle in a village in Mulanay, Quezon, the Constabulary reported.

Quezon provincial Constabulary commander Col Reynaldo Wyoco said the government soldiers belonging to the 234th PC Company and the 42nd Army Infantry Battalion overran a rebel camp which had 17 nipa huts.

The government group, he said, suffered only one wounded. He was identified as Reynaldo Bien, member of the Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu).

Wyoco said the identities of the slain rebels were not immediately known.

Two helicopter gunships fired rockets at the rebels, forcing them to flee toward a village in San Francisco town, the PC commander said.

Wyoco said at least 100 rebels took part in the gunbattle with the government forces.

'Frog' baby: A frog-like baby was recently born dead at the Quezon Memorial Hospital here after its head and arms were cut off during a Caesarian operation.

Hospital director Dr Manuel Salazar, identified the mother as Dolores Magsoccon, 30, of Barangay Dalahican in this city.

The baby weighing 12 pounds, had five sharp teeth, a big stomach and twisted arms.

Magsoccon's aunt Mrs Remolina de Guzman said that when Magsoccon started feeling labour pains she called a midwife (hilot). While the hilot was rubbing Magsoccon's stomach, the baby's head came out.

At the Quezon Memorial Hospital in downtown Lucena, while she was being attended to by Dra. Celia Goyma, Magsoccon decided that the baby's head be cut off to speed up the delivery. The boy's twisted arms were also cut off during the Caesarian operation.

The freak baby was Magsoccon's sixth child.

In October 1985, Rosita Valencia Orejasa, a 33-year-old fisherman's wife from Padre Burgos, Quezon, delivered at the QMH a two-headed baby boy, also stillborn.

QC sub-city assembly: Mabuhay Sub-City in Quezon City will hold a general assembly today at the QC Sports Centre on E. Rodriguez Avenue to urge the co-operation of the government and private sectors in the successful implementation of its projects.

Sub-City deputy-mayor Councillor Guillermo Altuna said his projects include cleanliness, peace and order, livelihood programme and revenue collection.

Mabuhay is composed of Barangays Dona Imelda, Dona Josefina, Dona Aurora, Sto. Nino, San Isidro, Santol and Don Manuel.

Mayor Brígido R. Simon Jr. will be the guest of honour during the assembly.

Brigadier General Alexander Aguirre

The no-nonsense general



MORE than one-hundred years since the infant Philippine Republic mobilized a ragtag military of ex-Katipuneros and peasants in its own defence under President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Emilio Aguinaldo, the tradition of citizen-soldiering is now a national professional of arms. It is a profession like no other — a brotherhood with its own code and customs, its own politics and intrigue, its own heroes and misfits and its own average Juan dela Cruzes. It is a fraternity united by the grim vow that somewhere, someday it may go in harm's way. The significance of that vow has rarely been greater than it is today wherein lies a continuing, and some say increasing, need for brave and able men to ride to the sound of the gun.

As an officer in the Philippine Constabulary, he has maintained a consistent outstanding record of the public service. Aguirre was chosen as PC Company Commander of the Year. Among his awards were the Distinguished Service Star (1980 and 1983) and the Cavalier award in 1969.

Upon the day he was appointed instructor at the PMA (1967-71), Aguirre also took up law at the Baguio College Foundation, Baguio City. He graduated *Magna Cum Laude* and was one of the topnotchers when he passed the Philippines Bar in 1971.

Other accomplishments of this military individual are: Master's degree in economics at UP and Ph.D. candidate (1974), Masters in National Security Administration (MNSA) at the National Defence College of the Philippines (1981), and graduate of the International Defence Management Course at the US Naval Post-graduate School, Monterey, California (1981).

Aguirre also attended seminars abroad such as the Crime Investigation Seminar in Tokyo, Japan, Anti-Terrorism and Anti-Hostage Taking at the Interpol in France and an observation tour of the traffic and transport systems in both Australia and Singapore, with these achievements behind him, Aguirre had been assigned in various capacities of the PC, both in the field and in the staff. He was a company commander in the Visayas and Bicol region, deputy C3 at HPC and operations officer and chief of staff of PC Metrocom and Mfp. On Jan 24, 1987, Gen. Aguirre was designated commander of the Capcom and the MFP director.

As a military professional, lawyer and economist, Gen. Aguirre has written numerous thesis and papers. He's the author of two non-fiction books: *A People's Revolution of Our Time (An Inside Story with Politico-Military Analysis)* in 1986 and *Readings on Counterinsurgency* (with co-writer Z. Villareal) in the following year.

This side of the general as a writer — gets most people's attention. Some say that military and law enforcement officials have political views while others think they should have no political views at all. He counters these confidently.

"What is provided by the constitution is that the military should not engage in any partisan political activity," the Capcom commander begins. "That Military Academy offers

should not be siding with any party or with any candidate. Giving political views pertains merely to saying that we are for the constitutional democracy, we are for democracy instead of being for Communism or dictatorship. We should be able to express our views in that aspect. We must be able to show the people that we are here to defend democracy, the constitution and to uphold civilian supremacy over the military, which is an essence of a constitutional democracy. We must be able to strongly respond against any threat that will prejudice or endanger our political system, that is a democratic system." The general adds that in that regard, if it's expressing political principles in defense of democracy, it's perfectly alright in the military. On the other hand, he says it's a no-no if it's for partisan political activities. "Partisan politics should be left to the politicians," he emphasizes.

Being a Brigadier General in the AFP, Aguirre freely admits that his military career has advanced his standing in society. "I'm a poor man. I came from a very humble family. I would say that it is through the military — of course, it was backed up by hard work — that we rose up to this level. But you cannot just rise up to a certain level in the military if you do not perform your job, being dedicated totally. You will be left behind, you will not get promoted."

According to Aguirre, that is one thing good about a constitutional democracy: *nothing is handed to you in a silver platter, as the cliché goes.* "You work hard for whatever you want to achieve. There is freedom for us to pursue our proper ambitions within the framework of the law and the values of society. In other words, we can pursue opportunities that may not be present in a totalitarian regime because you will be so constrained, controlled and managed by the political state. With democracy, when you're qualified and competent, you go up freely."

Though he may not look like the athletic type, Aguirre plays tennis in his leisure time instead of putting around the house or reading novels — the impression most people get with senior officers. "Before, I used to play badminton but now, tennis. I like the game for two reasons. First, it is a fast enough game and therefore, you will really be properly exercised physically. At the same time, you socialise with people — your contemporaries, different sectors of society with the same interest in sports."

It's a known fact that some officers gripe about their pay and their paperwork (although the higher they climb, in rank, the happier they are with their profession) but amazingly, Aguirre doesn't find himself frustrated with a schedule that often features 11-hour office stints, meetings and mandatory social activities.

"We have to accept that," says the MPF director. "That is a part of our responsibility — to meet with people, to attend to their

complaints, to be in the office to take care of documents and let decisions be made through directives. But at the same time, we have to go out, do inspections and supervise our men. It's not exactly monotonous like some people might think because we vary our activities from office to field work to social activities."

Of course, being a military personnel — either officer or enlisted — is very dangerous. Assume put it, every second of a soldier's or law enforcer's life puts his neck on the line. There are death threats from criminal syndicates and the armed city partisans popularly known as "sparrows" launching a terror campaign through treacherous killings of unsuspecting lawmen in the streets of Metro Manila. Being in the AFP for almost three decades now, Aguirre has never been wounded or really endangered. Not until the December 1 coup attempt last year. He flow relates to us what occurred in that one incident in Makati wherein he was wounded on the leg.

"Some of the mutineers — on the second day of the coup d'état — occupied the Makati commercial district, generally bounded by EDSA, Pasay Road, Paseo de Roxas and Buendia. We sent our men, the first contingent under Colonel Germino Valderrama, to control the situation there. It was a composite contingent coming from Capcom, MPF, LC Laguna, PC Batangas and Camp Crame units. After organising the situation in the area, we came in the following day. Our general strategy was to put up a surrounding force with overwhelming manpower and equipment around that area by stationing strategic corners and strongpoints around the boundaries.

The ambush on us happened in the afternoon — about five thirty or so. We were then deploying our troops. We were passing through Buendia with a convoy of so many vehicles, maybe about fifteen. I was on the fifth vehicle. During the first burst of gunfire, two of our men in the front vehicle were killed and two were wounded. The ambush happened near the corner of Makati Avenue and Buendia. Now, General Montano's ambush happened in Alava, thirty minutes before mine. So our ambuses were two separate incidents."

Today, Aguirre has recovered from the leg wound he sustained and the general does not walk with the slightest limp. Without knowledge of the incident, one who looks at him now would never guess that he was wounded in action just about three months ago.

From what happened during the sixth coup try since February 1986, a lot of Filipinos think that the AFP is somewhat getting divided morally and opinion-wise. To thwart all misconceptions and rumours about this issue, Aguirre reveals the real situation in the military.

"The remnants of the Gringo Honasan and company's sympathizers are actually an isolated case out of the total military structure," he explains. "They are a very small minority of the AFP but they are the ones doing the violent acts. Therefore, that is more sensational and the people get more attracted to their activities. So, the general impression is that the military is divided. It is not. We have a small group trying to do something against the general profession activity and unity of the AFP. It appears that it is widespread but it is actually not. The truth is, there

are police visibly, uncompromising enforcement of the law, improved crime solution efficiency and the continuing removal of erring personnel. They have even maximised efforts to generate and mobilise mass base support for the Capcom/MPF camps/stations through sustained community relations."

"The support of the general public is manifested by the different civic groups that come in to this camp, here in Bicutan, Taguig — and provide services, food supplies, and even entertainment, especially immediately after the liberation of Makati last December. We have students from St Scholastica, St Paul's and different organisations like Handasa Bayani Foundation formed by businessmen and concerned citizens. There are also the civic groups like the Lions, the Rotary Club. The information they give us results in fast response to crime incidents, asking us to be participants in their programmes — all these are indications of public support."

More can be said about Brigadier-General Alexander P. Aguirre, his mind, his profession, but a certain phrase he wrote in his book *A People's Revolution of Our Time*, can sum it all up:

"Men and regimes may come and go, but the true concept of duty of the soldier will always be the same and immutable — service to his country and people."

PNB, BPI raise prime rate

The state-owned Philippine National Bank (PNB) and Bank of the Philippines Islands (BPI) have raised their prime lending rates by at least a whole percentage point this month, sources in the banking industry disclosed yesterday.

The prime rate hike, the sources explained, has signalled the start of a fiercer competition between government and private sector borrowers for locally available funds this year.

Starting this April, PNB's prime rate has been raised to 22 percent, up one percentage point from the 21 percent it charged favoured clients in March.

Similarly, BPI, the country's biggest private Universal Bank, widened its prime rates to range of 23 to 25 percent.

Some smaller banks are even reported to be quoting higher prime rates for borrowers — usually private sector clients — turned down or could not be accommodated by the bigger banks.

The increase in the banks' lending rates, was also explained, was the result of the mopping up operations the Central Bank, through the flotation of Treasury bills, resort to regularly whenever it wants to check excess liquidity and, in this particular case, to tame a galloping inflation rate that it is already running at 14 percent.

Last week, 90-day T-bill yields were quoted at 25 percent, the NBI, the Commission on Immigration and Deportation (CID) and the Council for the Welfare of the Children.

The group's income-generating projects (dispensing pigs for one, and loans for another) aim to tackle the problem at its roots, which is poverty. Its campaign however is better remembered for the boost it got when former CID Commissioner Marian Defensor-Santiago raided the town in February 1988 and arrested 22 suspected pedophiles and deported 20 of them. Another raid in late 1988 yielded four arrests.

With the proposed "sin taxes" still pending in Congress, the government is likely to increase its domestic borrowings to raise revenues for operations and for social development funding, despite statements made recently by President Aquino that he wanted the internal debt of the country reduced to a lower level.

Very few foresaw the rates at 25 percent since it was generally believed last year that the banking system was awash with funds which were considered ample enough to satisfy both government and private sector borrowings.

New expenditures such as the P5-billion appropriation to replenish depleted Oil Price Stabilization Fund (OPSF), and the refusal of Congress to enact new tax measures, have apparently changed the credit situation.

Early this year, the PNB, in fact, forecast a 19 to 20 percent 12-month average T-bill yield for maturities of 90 days.



Paradise lost. The DOT has declared a "hands off" policy in Pagsanjan

Joyce L. Sison

The beauty and her art

SHE is a handmaiden of the arts, to quote Charlotte Curtis. The tremendous amount of work and disciplines she has put into perfecting her art or any other projects she puts her hand into, has made her one of our more successful career women even without the help of her family known for its line of successful business like real estate, theatres, condominiums, commercial buildings, etc.

Comfortable with her personality, with her artistic talents as a painter, dancer, dramatist, linguist, charity worker, Marivic Rufino is cool, strong and a sophisticated personality. That is what she exudes on the outside. But inside, Marivic is basically shy by her own admission, and has a tendency to be a loner. But she is able to adjust to the demands of her work at the Hotel Intercontinental, first as a banquet manager and at present, manager of business development and special events.

Equipped with beauty, talent, family connections, wealth, and prestige, it can be safely said, however, that even if Marivic does not have all of those mentioned above, still, powered by a quick imaginative mind and self-confidence, she can attain, with a deep-rooted conviction whatever she wants and with a great amount of success.

Marivic studied painting when she was just ten years old although it was an off and on process. After finishing her high school education in Marymount International School in Rome where she also took special arts lessons in her free time, she continued her college studies at Marymount Manhattan College in New York graduating with a degree of English literature and theatre arts. While there, she attended master classes in drama, joined women's and children's drama workshops.

Returning to the Philippines, she first worked at the Cultural Centre of the Philippines in charge of concerts to raise money for student development programmes. It was easy for her to approach sponsors for every event because of her family con-

nnections, but aside from this, she has a certain persuasive way of making them say yes because of what their help can do towards the youth of today.

"I just appeal to their hearts and emotions whenever I approach them for their help and this really works," she said.

She also worked for a time with Victor Recording Studio where she handled pop concerts. "I was in charge of Sharon Cuneta's first solo concert."

Then she was paged by Hotel Intercontinental where her first job was as banquet manager.

"It was a new challenge, a different field, so I moved to the hotel world. I learned quite a lot here, learned another dimension in working. I used to produce theatre shows. I used to be a client and now I'm working here."

As banquet manager, Marivic treated functions at the hotel like a big-budgeted production, even if they're small parties only. The touch is classy, stylish in food, motif, music and colour, just the right touch that a Rufino can give.

There was that time when Intercon honoured their big accounts with an Orient Express party. There were five cities portrayed and each had the setting, costume, food and decor of the particular city. Everyone was of the opinion that Marivic outdid herself in this event just as she did in another party with a Camelot motif which was a "thank you" for top corporates.

"Last year, I took up consultancy work on the side and I helped put up the celebration of Shell's 75th year. I produced two concerts, Serenata ng Shell with the help of my former colleagues at CCP. I helped put together the revival of the National Shell Art Competition which has been dormant for 17 years. I mounted the works of the former winners of the Shell Art competition from 1951 to 1971 like Joya, Ang Kio Kok, Ben Cab, Sanzo, Alcuaz, to name some. It could be said that these famous artists began with Shell. I combined my job as producer, art exhibitor and artist

and jumbled them all."

From the sale of the exhibit, Intercom donated P15,000.00 to the Shell's Student Scholarship Programme and Shell matched the equivalent amount. The sum total will be the prize money for Shell's future competition which was revived last year.

"Actually, it was the combined effort of Shell's Cesar Buenventura, Ayala's Jaime Zobel and Intercontinental," Marivic opined. To which we can add that it was mostly because of her that the competition was a success.

For her present job, Marivic handles special events, diplomatic receptions and VIPs of the hotel. Aside from handling art exhibits at the hotel, she was in charge of the polo tournament this year for the Intercon Cup for Golf, participated in by golfers from their top accounts and diplomats. She also organised the polo tournament at the Manila Polo Club twice with top teams to the polo club, aside from other VIPs participating.

After each tournament, Intercon hosted cocktails for the participants.

Painting, which is her forte, also occupies a major part of Marivic's artistic talents. She paints in watercolour and does a lot of butterflies, seascapes, flowers and anything that has to do with nature because it fascinates her.

"I don't do Chinese painting anymore but the oriental influence of my ten years of Chinese painting is still prevalent in my paintings. I'm doing the Western style but you can see that there is still an Eastern influence in them."

Last month, she had her third major joint exhibit which she started since 1987. She participated in seven group art shows before. Marivic remembers that when she painted Tali Beach (her favourite resort), she did it out of memory.

"It was an expression of mood. I painted it as I saw it but to reflect my mood."

Included as one of the twelve loveliest faces of Manila, Marivic

has been single for 12 years, after a very unsuccessful marriage when she was very young.

"Not for lack of suitors but by personal choice. I want to grow, I want to take hold of myself as an artist as a person, as a career woman. I wanted to do so many things I could not do when I got married. It's a growing process for me, an evolution of sorts. I'm very happy as a single person. I lived in New York for a year and a half and concentrated on drama and dance. I also took up photography and languages. I accomplish quite a lot now because I have the freedom to do so."

Emotionally, Marivic is open-minded, although she still believes in the traditional courtship and marriage. But there are certain changes regarding trial marriages and live-ins which could be accepted.

"Values have changed and the lifestyle now is fast and very modern. We should not expect that two people can grow up



together mentally or even psychologically. Society has learned to accept things like these. Being separated, however, much so in Manila is very difficult and so is being a single parent. There are several liabilities when one is separated and becomes single again. But it's a matter of turning the negative into positive. I told myself that I'll make these all positive. Instead of moping and crying about what might have been, I decided to work hard, so I can prove to myself and to other people that it can be done. I didn't work with the family, a struggling artist because I didn't have any support from them."

"There are rumours that before long, she'll give up her single-blessedness. She laughed.

"If I choose to move to another field and be attached to someone in the future, I would then say that I had tasted practically everything within my range of talent and if at all, that would be another challenge, another chance at happiness."

From the provinces



Census

President Aquino answers questions from Loretto Cabral, a teacher of V. Mapa High School near Malacañang, for the 1990 national census on population and housing, which started yesterday. Aquino urged the people to co-operate with the census-takers of the National Statistics Office. She said the results of the census will be vital to the country's economic programmes

PAGIBALAO, Quezon: A PC trooper and nine New People's Army (NPA) rebels were wounded when soldiers of the 231st PC company led by Capt. Marcelo P. Garbo Jr tried to rescue a member of the regional PC intelligence unit kidnapped at barangay Ikirin.

Garbo told Col Reynaldo G. Wyco, Quezon PC-INP chief, that he formed a 30-man team to rescue Constable 2nd Class Nestorio Batocabe from NPA rebels.

Because of strong winds, the fire immediately spread to nearby houses. Pascual added.

Makati policemen led by Maj. Remy Macaspac, Makati police chief, cordoned off the area to prevent looting.

The wounded rebels were taken by their companions to the Mauban-Atimonan mountains.

The wounded trooper was identified as Sgt Rodrigo Y. Cunanan.

Residents said the rebels were running with a man tied to a rope. They expressed the belief that the man was Batocabe.

Wyco ordered his company commanders to transfer the residents to the town proper after he received reports that the NPAs will kidnap soldiers and militiamen.

GENERAL SANTO CITY: Rodrigo Falcon, National Power Corp. (Napocor) vice-president for Mindanao, said some 200 local workers are now employed for the project's civil works, warehouse and administrative functions.

The plant can generate 40 megawatts, enough to supply the power needs of the entire Cagayan Valley region, according to the results of the corporation's exploitation work.

Geologic surveys on Mt Cagua have shown the presence of potential geothermal steam enough to justify a modular geothermal electric generator.

A geothermal plant is run by steam. It is an economical source of power.

Domingo said the project is part of the government's thrust to explore all possible sources of power.

He said six kilometres of road network have already been constructed to facilitate the flow of heavy equipment to be used in the drilling and construction work.

Canipa Budhavame, 56, an Indian national, of 8971 Aranga St., Makati, was charred beyond recognition. She was trapped in her bedroom.

Initial investigation, Pascual said, showed that the fire started on the second floor of Budhavame's rented unit.

The owner of the apartment was identified as Lydia Gonzales who is now residing in Pasig, Metro Manila.

Garbo said that while on a barangay road in Bagong Bogumbongan, he saw armed men believed to be kidnappers of batocabe. A clash started.

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Falcon was quoted by Censo Guanco Jr., Napocor area manager for south-western Mindanao, as saying that "lawless elements intentionally burned down" 2HA type electric wood poles along the Taguiron-Klinan 138 KV in Kablon, Tapi, South Cotabato, and Taguiron 69 KV lines in Capiton, Dinaig, Maguindanao, last April 14.

Napocor probbers, suspecting a sabotage pattern, found unburned piles of grass and corn stalks near the burned wood poles.

SAN FERNANDO, La Union: Military authorities were assailed for their alleged failure to act on a complaint on the reported attempt of four armed men to kill a newsman.

Eddie Almodovar, reporter-newswriter of radio station DZYR, said the four introduced themselves as La Union PC troopers threatened to kill him while he was taking breakfast on Gen. Ancheita St.

In his complaint filed before the La Union police, Almodovar said the military men, who were drunk, poked their guns at him when he refused to let them use the tricycle which he had hired to bring him to office.

MANILA: The contract for the holding of an international exhibition in Manila called "Packprintplas Philippines '91" was signed recently in Makati by Gonzalez U. Marte, president of the Packaging Institute of the Philippines (PIP); James Chiu, president Printing Industries Association of the Philippines (PIAP); So Huk Choy, managing director, Sun Hung Int'l Services Ltd of Hong Kong; Beng Cuizin, president, Meeting and Exhibition Planners, and Antonio Dy, Ching Bing, president, Philippine Plastics Industrial Association (PIPA).

The exhibit at the Philippine International Convention Centre on Nov. 9-13 will put up disco houses, sports complexes, sing-along bars, and pub houses, he said.

MAKATI: A woman of Indian nationality was killed in a one hour fire which destroyed at least 14 houses worth P10 million in Makati.

Col Oscar Pascual, Southern Fire District superintendent, said that the body of

Exhibition & Conference or Packprintplas '91 offers a broad range of modern machines, said Zeno Martinez.

PASIG: Elements of the Eastern Police District (EPD) and the Constabulary Highway Patrol Group (CHPG) shot dead three suspected carjapers in a running gunbattle in Pasig, Metro Manila.

Reports reaching the PC Capital Regional Command (Capcom) identified two of the slain suspects through their identification cards as Rolando T. Lopez of Dasmarinas, Cavite; and Joseito C. Rodriguez of Sto Tomas batangas. The third was not identified.

The Capcom reports said the three men died on the spot.

Investigation showed the shootout happened on Saint Martin St. Pasig while agents of the CHPG and EPD were on routine patrol.

Operatives said they chased upon a carnaged white Toyota car bearing license plate No. DAY-979. Lawmen called the attention of the occupants by flagging down the vehicle but this was ignored.

As the agents approached the vehicle, two of the occupants opened fire at them, the operatives said. This led to the gunbattle.

MANILA: Constabulary commanders urged Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos to make representations with Congress for the enactment of laws that give more teeth to the counter-insurgency and anti-crime campaigns.

During a command briefing in Camp Crame, Maj. Gen. Cesar P. Nazareno and his commanders and his executive staff also recommended the upgrading of the security and defence system in an effort to protect police stations, towns and barangays from terrorist attacks and harassment by communist rebels.

Constabulary commanders in the field said that their operations in counter-insurgency drive are hamstrung by "weak and ineffective laws" dealing with the enemies of the state.

Their problems, the officers said, are compounded by the "apparent lack of co-operation and interest" of local government officials in the counter-insurgency drive and anti-crime campaigns.

Nazareno said the active participation of local government officials and civilian leaders is a "must" and, if possible, they should take the lead role in the peace and order campaign.

For his part, Ramos said that the peace and order councils (POC) should be strengthened to serve as the umbrella organisation for concerned government agencies in time of crises such as coup attempts and other man-made disasters.

The defence chief told PC commanders to harness the co-operation of local government officials, particularly barangay officials in the counter-insurgency and anti-crime efforts.

Nazareno said the ultra-rightist forces "will take advantage of the adverse perception on the capability of the government to maintain law and order."

On the other hand, communist rebels face the prospect of "political isolation" and may lose the relevance of their movement, mass appeal, and political force, Nazareno added.

The travails of Teng Puyat

SECURITIES & EXCHANGE REGISTRATION No. 117244, issued on November 7, 1983, formalised the existence of the Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. Foundation, Inc.

The incorporators/trustees of the Foundation during that heady period of the protest movement, Jose Concepcion, Jr., Jose Antonio Gonzalez, Ernesto Licauco, Richard Lopa, Vicente Puyat, Joaquin Roces, Enrique Zobel and this writer.

Where are they now?

President Cory, to state and arrest the unnecessary, is in Malacañang.

JoeCon is Secretary of Trade and Industry.

Tony Gonzalez is back at Mondragon, after a colourful stint as Secretary of Tourism, and remains a firm supporter of the administration. (He is also the co-maker of the loans my wife, company executive, had him to incur.)

Ernesto Licauco is where he has always been, quietly supporting what is decent, what all he has, and never asking anything for himself.

Baby Lopa and Titong Roces have gone ahead to the Promised Land.

EEZ, in a sense, is also out of this world. There was a falling out during the 1985 snap elections. For a while, he was reported to be serious about certain other ambitions of democracy during a group with a that was so forgettable it has now sunk into oblivion.

During the 1987 senatorial elections, he would have been a logical administration candidate, he had the name and blood line, the background, the resources — a sure winner.

Indeed, his name would come up. I don't quite know why he was not picked.

But, certainly, his anti-administration rhetoric and activities had not helped him in the search for Kabikulan ng Pangulo.

I once asked a cousin of his, a shrewd observer of the political scene, why Teng seemed to keep shooting himself in the foot. He was a shoo-in to replace and step into the shoes of his great father, Don Gil Puyat. His cousin was at a loss on how to explain Teng's behaviour. Sayang, was all we could mutter.

But that's politics.

Now, there may also be a gross misreading of the volatile political temper of the Filipino. While President Cory remains popular, our countrymen not necessarily care much anymore for some other champions of democracy during the dark days of the dictatorship.

I was shocked when I read that Teng was picked up last March 20. I understand he would be charged with illegal possession of firearms in furtherance of subversion. No ball.

I do not want to second-guess the authorities concerned. But this will precisely dramatise the problem of equal protection. If the idea is to deny him bail, the ordinary citizen would be further confused why the Enriles, Panlilio and the Bravos, who are well known, well-connected and have no problem raising hundreds of thousands of pesos in bail, money very, very quickly, would be treated differently. We must be evenhanded.

Teng is presumed innocent and is guaranteed all his rights under the law.

The fortunes of war and politics are sometimes beyond our ken. As then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile was to say when Nene Pimental was again arrested in 1983, when one assumes a certain position, he must be ready to accept the consequences. MM

JULIO GUILLEN, threw a grenade at President Manuel A. Roxas 23 years ago, on March 10, 1947, to be precise.

KPBL moves 2nd Conference competitions opening to June 15

THE Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League (KPBL) has moved its 2nd Conference basketball/volleyball competitions opening date to June 15, 1990.

This was disclosed yesterday by the KPBL Secretariat, who said that this was necessary so as not to run in conflict with the playing venue's

availability. This will also allow the KPBL Officers and members to fully participate in the forthcoming Philippines' Independence Day celebrations, which will be highlighted by a June 8 whole-day affair at the Messiah Beach Hotel Complex.

KPBL Commissioner Edgardo Mateo added that all participating

teams should welcome this postponement since this would give them more time to organise their respective teams for the grueling 4 months competitions. He strongly suggests to all those concerned to use this time to get fully acquainted with the Official Basketball Rules and Regulations, which were furnished to the teams by

the KPBL.

In a related development, 11 teams have so far registered for the All Filipino Men's Basketball League. They are Kalexo, Hasawi, Kuwait International Hotel, Al Ghaniyah Jahra, KHC-Bayan, Overland Transport Co., Trend Wave, Kellogg's Plants Services, Al Wailes, Kay &

Associates, & KPBC. Also expected to register are the teams of Nissan Al Babtain, Capcom Al Widad, Kuwait Regency Palace, Kirby, Al Ghaniyah Mangaf and Pizza Italia.

In the Open expatriates Men's Basketball Invitational, six teams have so far signified their intention of participating. They are BES Engi-

ering, Gulf English School, Universal American School, RP A team, RP B team, and KSSC.

Registration is still open, and all other interested teams may come to KPBL Regular Monday meeting (8:30 pm) at the Mabuhay Restaurant/Carlton Hotel, Kuwait City.

The KPBL Secretariat also added

that "Final Try-Outs" for the composition of the RP teams A and B is underway (M-W-F 6:00 pm). All individuals concerned and interested should attend.

For further KPBL details, call the commissioner, Tel: 535203 and ask for Edgardo "Ed" Mateo.

Filcheck to hold another tourney

IN the observance of the 92nd Year of Philippine Independence, the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (Filcheck), will hold a Chess Blitz Tournament on Friday, June 8. The tournament will feature five-minute chess blitz games with the top three finishers for both groups (Rated A & B) receiving a trophy and valuable gift items.

As an added attraction to the event, the club will feature the "Best Kasparov and Win-a-prize Contest" sponsored by Adawlah Universal Electronics, distributor of Kasparov chess computers in Kuwait. All Filipino chess lovers, male or female, children and adults are invited to try their wits against a Kasparov chess computer in 5, 10 and 15 minutes blitz games. Valuable prizes await the first five lucky winners of each category.

Club president Edward Racaza also announced that nine companies have so far confirmed their participation in the forthcoming Inter-Commercial Team Chess Tournament; namely, Hajid-Ligaya Door-to-Door Forwarders, Magnolia Ice Cream, Kirby Building System, Al Wazan Elevators, Al Masayel Est., JM International, Sanya and Kuwait Public Transport Co.

The tournament is open to all Filipino chess enthusiasts, male or female. Each team shall have four regular players and two alternates. Entry forms are now available at the Filcheck headquarters at the new Kabayan Restaurant. Last day for the submission of entries is on May 25. Opening ceremonies will be held on June 8, 1990 at the Messiah Beach Club during the Civic Parade in connection with the Pre-Independence Day Celebration being organised by the Philippine embassy.

For more details, call Filcheck headquarters at Tel: 240-2405.

Meanwhile, Filcheck bids farewell to member Hussein Ahmad, Group B champion in the First Rated Chess Tournament held recently. Hussein left Kuwait for good to take up new employment in West Germany.

Players rankings as of May 1990

Group A standing based on the just concluded Rated Tournament:

1. Niel Dumlaon; 2. Ingy Vendola; 3. Danny Calasian; 4. Edwin Borgas; 5. Remy Montales; 6. Sammy Aurellano; 7. Rading Moje; 8. Rolly Boado; 9. Ali Macaway; 10. Thony Monreal; 11. Rey Mangorong; 12. Arnel Matinao; 13. Ariel Martinez; 14. Jess Betquin.

Group A members who did not participate or participated but did not finish in the just concluded Rated Tournament (in alphabetical order):

15. Alameda, Wahab; 16. Barrios, Chito; 17. Cortado, Mon; 18. Cordez, Rey; 19. Espeno, Pir; 20. Farales, Ver; 21. Lagmay, Teddy; 22. Pagaduan, Romy; 23. Policarpio, Nanding; 24. Soriano, Wally; 25. Veloso, Romy.

Group B standing based on the just concluded Rated Tournament:

1. Hussain Ahmed; 2. Gil Opiana Jr; 3. Bernardo de los Reyes; 4. Robert Vargas; 5. Dads Fates; 6. Fred Marasigan; 7. Mel Espinosa; 8. Rolle Mercado; 9. Jun Emutan; 10. Diony Bartolome; 11. Silver Salvado; 12. Stanley Savit; 13. Jun Alejandro; 14. Bauma Buaya.

Group B members who did not participate or participated but did not finish in the just concluded Rated Tournament (in alphabetical order):

15. Acuña, Jigs; 16. Alfajaro, Alex; 17. Burdat, Mauro; 18. Caro, Nonoy; 19. Corpuz, Vic; 20. Diaz-Roberto; 21. De Nieva, Fred; 22. Espinal, Alex; 23. Laude, Rodolfo; 24. Maca-ayong, Sonnie; 25. Magtangoh, Francis; 26. Mercado, Jun; 27. Perez, Adrian; 28. Raza, Edward; 29. Sunico, Ray; 30. Tuan, Juan; 31. Veloso, Rey.

Pryor 'can't see'

NEWARK, New Jersey, May 12, (AP): Aaron Pryor can't even see the big E on an eyechart with his visually impaired left eye and should be barred from boxing. A state boxing commission doctor said yesterday.

Dr David Smith, the commission's consulting ophthalmologist, said he examined Pryor in February and that without corrective lenses the vision in the former junior welterweight champion's left eye was about 20-400.

It improved to 20-70 with corrective contact lenses that cannot be worn in the ring, Smith said in a telephone interview from his office.

Pryor has ranked the country's boxing hierarchy by scoring the last for a boxing license despite his vision problems.



Barkley scores 34 points, Jordan 49



Crawford is airborne after crashing on the first turn. (Reuter wirephoto)

Ernie, Bebot take titles



Winners of the women's division.



PBAK president Jimmy Tadona with winners of the men's division.

1961 Yankees gather again at reunion

ATLANTIC CITY, May 12, (AP): The 1961 New York Yankees have aged but their memory was ageless with fans who came to a team reunion yesterday to get autographs and snap a few photographs with their heroes.

Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford and Yogi Berra were the marquee names among the 32 players and coaches attending the reunion.

Mantle, who hit 54 home runs that year in 1961, said he couldn't believe time has passed so quickly.

"This year my goal is to just sit on the front row," he said. "I've never been on the front row of an Indy-car 500-mile race and I'd like to do that someday."

He shrugged off his fast lap yesterday.

"The track was good, with cool temperatures and all that kind of stuff," Unser said. "We didn't want to top out any time during the week until Friday, then keep that edge until Saturday."

"We were damn good," said Berra, who now lives in Montclair, spending most days working on lowering his 16 handicap on the golf course.

The hall of fame catcher, known as much for throwing out malapropisms as baserunners, said "astronaut" when asked why there seemed to be less camaraderie among today's players.

"It takes the fun out of the game," Berra explained.

■ The Yankees traded Dave Winfield to the California Angels for pitcher Mike Witt yesterday but the deal was on hold when the power-hitting outfielder said he would not report to the Angels.

Winfield, for years one of baseball's best players, claimed that he had the right to veto the trade as 10-year veteran with at least five years' service with his club.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 12, (AP): First, Al Unser Jr. soared the Indianapolis asphalt with the fastest unofficial lap ever. Then he said the time for comfortably fast laps is over.

Unser stole the spotlight yesterday from Penske racing teammates Rick Mears and Emerson Fittipaldi, rocketing to a lap of 228.502 miles per hour (367.728 kilometers per hour) in the last hour of the final full day of practice before the start of qualifications for the May 27 Indianapolis 500.

Fittipaldi, the defending Indy 500 champion, was next at 227.181 (365.602), followed by Mears at 226.655 (364.755). Each driver exceeded the unofficial lap record of 226.231 (364.073) set last year by Mears on the Friday before the start of qualifications.

But yesterday, it was the 28-year-old Unser who surprised everyone — including himself — and became one of the co-favourites to win the pole position for the 74th Indy 500.

"It doesn't seem like it's been 10 years," said Mantle, 58, who maintained the regality of a superstar by arriving late for interviews and leaving to do that someday."

"This year my goal is to just sit on the front row," he said. "I've never been on the front row of an Indy-car 500-mile race and I'd like to do that someday."

He shrugged off his fast lap yesterday.

"The track was good, with cool temperatures and all that kind of stuff," Unser said. "We didn't want to top out any time during the week until Friday, then keep that edge until Saturday."

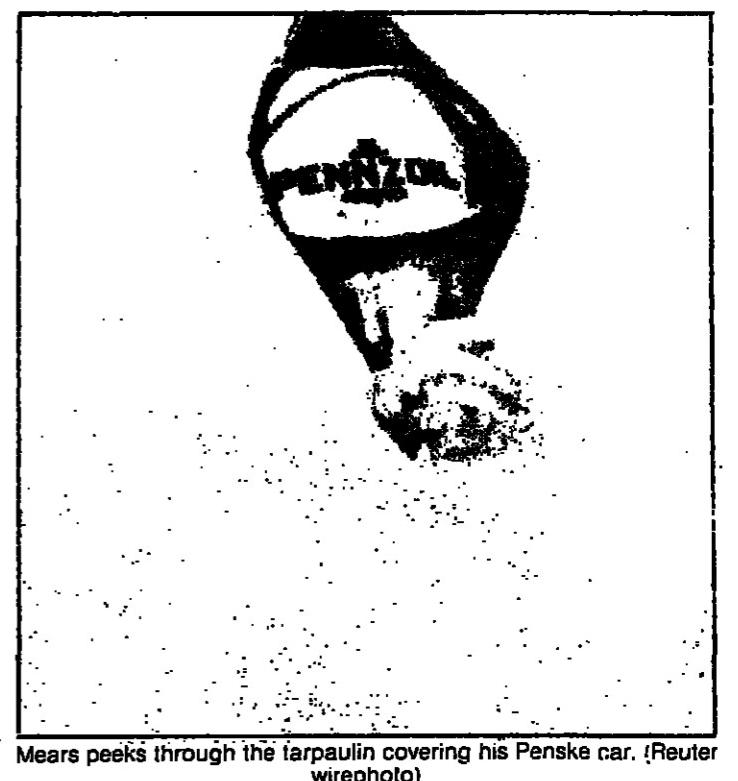
"We were damn good," said Berra, who now lives in Montclair, spending most days working on lowering his 16 handicap on the golf course.

The hall of fame catcher, known as much for throwing out malapropisms as baserunners, said "astronaut" when asked why there seemed to be less camaraderie among today's players.

"It takes the fun out of the game," Berra explained.

■ The Yankees traded Dave Winfield to the California Angels for pitcher Mike Witt yesterday but the deal was on hold when the power-hitting outfielder said he would not report to the Angels.

Winfield, for years one of baseball's best players, claimed that he had the right to veto the trade as 10-year veteran with at least five years' service with his club.



Mears peers through the tarpaulin covering his Penske car. (Reuter wirephoto)

Soviet stays ahead in cycling race

NEW YORK, May 12, (Reuters): Canadian amateur Ed Kaczmarczyk cruised to an easy win over Swedish amateur Michel Lofis in yesterday's 11th stage, while race leader Vladislav Bobrik of the Soviet Union conserved his energy during the Tour de Trump cycling race.

Kaczmarczyk, who took the 80-km New York City circuit race, was timed in one hour 45 minutes 41 seconds of the eight-lap course. Lofis was second in 1:45:45.

American amateur Mike McCarthy who began his cycling career by training on this same course seven years ago, overcame a flat tire with 15 kms remaining to finish third in 1:43:53. The American lost just 22 seconds while his tire was replaced.

Bobrik, the Soviet amateur who claimed the lead after winning the third stage one week ago, was content to finish in a large pack of riders, one minute 45 seconds after the winner.

Bobrik, 19, competing in his first international stage race, was to encounter the most difficult stage of the race today.

The 98 riders remaining from a starting field of 132 were to be tested in the 199.2-km Catskill to Albany Road race. The stage includes the steepest climb of the event, a 500-metre, 5-km ascent to Devil's Kitchen about 32 kms into the race.

"I know it's the most difficult stage of the entire race," said Bobrik. "All I can do to keep the lead is ride as hard as I can and stay out in front."

Bobrik leads Mexican Raul Alcalde by one minute 27 seconds.

Ale Kovaliov of Norway was third, 2:10 behind, eight seconds ahead of American Ron Kiefel.

The race concludes tomorrow with the relatively flat 175.3-km Northampton to Boston road race.

Foreman, Benton, Cayton win Joe Louis Awards



Joe Louis (right) with Frank Sinatra in 1978.



Foreman: aiming for a shot at the world title

NEW YORK, May 12, (UPI): Only miles from the site, the "Brown Bomber's" greatest fight played on a big screen in the Bronx yesterday to celebrate Joe Louis International Day for the Alabama sharecropper's son who became an American hero.

Louis' 1938 rematch victory over Max Schmeling in Yankee Stadium — a first-round KO that to America represented triumph over Hitler's Germany — was shown two days before what would have been Louis' 76th birthday. He died in 1981 of a heart attack at age 67.

To honour the longest reigning heavyweight champion in history, annual Joe Louis Awards were given to members of the boxing community. Louis held the championship from 1937 to 1949 without losing.

George Foreman, the 42-year-old crusader for a return shot at the title, was named Fighter of the Year but could not attend as he is in training for a June 16th fight against Adilson Rodrigues.

George Benton, named Trainer of the Year, sent a statement from Houston, where he is training Evander Holyfield for his June 1 bout against Seamus McDonagh.

"Every fighter wants to be a world champion, every fighter wants to be known as the best," Benton said. "So does every trainer. But every trainer has not been blessed with those things I've been blessed with. Those things are the greatest fighters in the world ... when you work with guys like Rocky Lockridge, Melvin Taylor, Evander Holyfield and Pernell Whitaker, it is hard not to look good."

"I am still not over the shock and the pride of that went with winning this year's Trainer of the Year award from the Boxing Writers Association and now this comes along. It is with humble humility that I accept this award, not just for myself and my family but for all the trainers out there who deserve this award but don't have the great fighters to work with as I do, the guys

trained" but remembered most the nature that made Louis "a great champion in the true tradition."

Bill Cayton, the legal but spurned manager of Mike Tyson among others, was named Manager of the Year.

When asked to recall Louis, Cayton told of a fighter both blessed with natural ability and "very well-

trained" boxer and a great person. When he became a fighter, there was still a great deal of racism. He was introduced before the (James) Braddock fight as "Joe Louis, a credit to his race."

"Today we could still say Joe Louis was a credit to his race — the human race."

Louis, often asked how he endured such racism with constant grace, once said: "Some folks do it by shouting, some folks do it by killing, others of us do it just be being ourselves and conducting ourselves right."

Ever the philosopher, Louis also had an answer when asked how he was able to deal with bankruptcy after rising from abject poverty on the streets of Detroit to millionaire status.

"I just want one word on my tombstone," Louis said. "Even, I was born even and I want to go out even."

In the ring, that proved impossible for a 67-3 fighter with 52 knockouts and 25 title defences who through decades of boxing came to be called "America's symbol of magnificence."

